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AMIGA FORMAT

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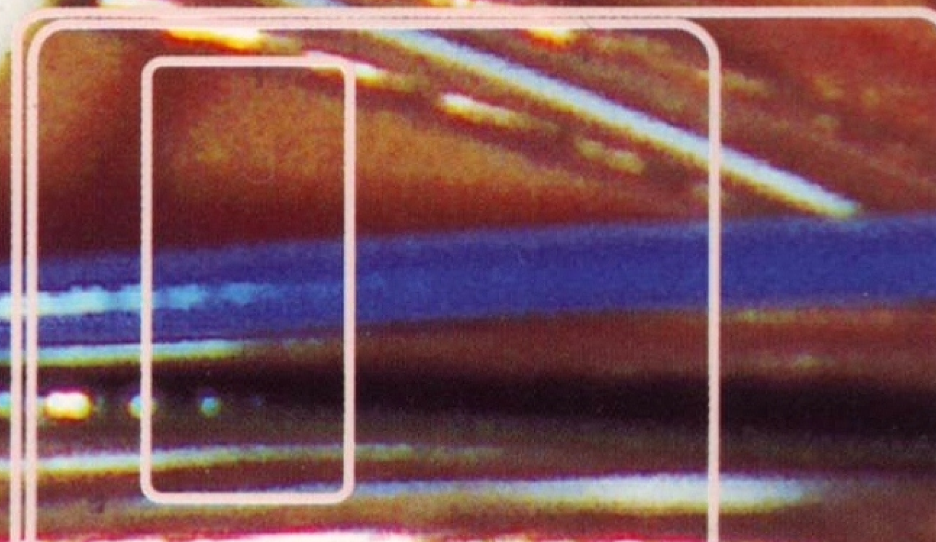
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IN THE WORLD'S BEST-SELLING AMIGA MAGAZINE THIS MONTH

AMIGA FORMAT

ISSUE 68 ■ FEBRUARY 1995

AMIGA NEWS



Nick Veitch takes a long, hard and considered look at the World Of Amiga Show.

Show success

World Of Amiga report page 22. Nick Veitch live and direct from the Wembley extravaganza.

MAIN FEATURE

Get Wired page 30

Richard Baguley explains how you can explore the outer reaches of Cyberspace with your Amiga.



Set your sights on the brave new world of the Internet with your Amiga.

SERIOUSLY AMIGA

SCREENPLAY

Page 41



Those lovable little lemmings are back, but is it a welcome return? p62

Every new Amiga game reviewed and rated!





DreamWeb (left): Is this new strategy game an ordinary tale of madness? *The Lion King* (right): Can the new Disney game live up to *Aladdin*'s standards?

AMIGA FORMAT More people read *Amiga Format* than any other Amiga magazine on the planet!

Welcome to *Amiga Format*. By choosing this magazine you have just made a very wise decision: this is the world's most popular Amiga magazine. And that means more Amiga users know us, trust us and choose to read us than anyone else.

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The proof? Commodore itself regularly chooses *Amiga Format* to prepare special editions of the magazine to be bundled with its machines. And surveys have consistently shown that retailers trust *Amiga Format*'s reviews above any other magazine.

So you know you can read *Amiga Format* with confidence. Welcome to the world's biggest community of Amiga users!

Steve Jarratt, Editor





This Month In View

After an all too brief stay on the world's best Amiga magazine Steve Jarratt is off to pastures new. See ya Steve!

Considering that Commodore is in a state of liquidation, no new machines are being produced and there are about three CD32s on sale in the UK (if you can find them), it's been a surprisingly positive month for the Amiga.

First of all, we had the World Of Amiga Show at Wembley which happily boasted a turnout of over 6,000 loyal Amiga users. As well as highlighting the Amiga hardware, the show also played host to dozens of third-party companies flogging their wares, nearly all of whom had a new release on display.

Certainly there was no shortage of support for the machine, with everything from art packages to 060 accelerator cards to networking to a new SCSI link to the Roaster chip for the Opal card to an A1200 tower system on offer. Companies from the UK, Germany and the US were in evidence, and they were all doing good business: they came, they saw, they bought Amiga gear.

And if there were any A1200s to be had they too would have shifted in numbers. People want the Amiga. They want the 1200 and they would have paid handsomely to get one.

Industry paper *Computer Trade Weekly* recently released details of a poll they ran among 50 computer and video game specialist retailers from all over the country. When asked if they would like the Amiga back, a massive 82% of those polled said they did. And the reason is simple: they can sell Amigas. And then they can sell Amiga joysticks, mice, hard drives, accelerator boards, genlocks, digitisers – you name it. Then they can sell Amiga software. And we all know what a great Christmas it's been for the Amiga, with dozens of top new games and quite a few stunning new serious applications to boot.

In the poll, the Amiga was the third best performing format behind (unsurprisingly) the Mega Drive and PC, but in front of (surprisingly) PC CD-ROM and Super Nintendo.

So the writing is on the wall for whoever gains control of the fate of our favourite machine: the future is looking bright. All they have to do is make the machines: retailers will stock them, the public will buy them and third-party companies will support them.

An example of this is the confidence-boosting story which reached us of the launch of *Cannon Fodder 2*. Sensible's game sold 45,000 copies in two days – the sort of feat normally equalled only by the massively-hyped titles from the Sega and Nintendo camps. Similarly, *Sensible World Of Soccer* shipped 64,000 units into retail and they're already ordering more! Lucky for them that the Amiga's a dead machine otherwise they'd have problems keeping up with demand...

This issue sees another couple of tweaks to your beloved mag. Firstly, we've redesigned Demo Zone and PD Update. I never quite saw the point of separating what were ostensibly two sides of the same coin, and so they now form the glorious new PD Select, which you can examine in detail on page 81.

Much as it looks like we've just redesigned the section for the sake of it, we have actually listened to your opinions. Hopefully, our Public Domain section should be easier to find your way around, thanks to headings for every new product and box-outs on the bigger/better items.

Similarly, following your comments on the new look of the games pages, we have reintroduced the ratings for graphics, sound, addiction and playability, and dumped the uppers and downers in favour of a final, says-it-all verdict.

Again, this should make *AF*'s review pages just about perfect, although we haven't finished yet. If you have any comment to make on *AF*'s design, content, writing style or whatever, don't be scared of writing in and telling us. We aim to make the mag better by giving you what you want. And if we don't know what you want we can't do that, can we?

And finally, I have to report that after nine glorious months at the helm of this esteemed organ, sadly, I'm off to pastures new. My time on *Amiga Format* has been a real eye-opener: I never dreamed that a collection of plastic and wires and silicon could engender such loyalty from its users.

And it's not the loyalty of people who simply enjoy using a computer. Amiga owners really love their machines – I could never see a PC or Mac or console owner having such affection towards their hardware. Perhaps it's the fact that rather than being produced by some faceless corporation, or designed by some far-eastern conglomerate, the Amiga is the product of a small group of dedicated people. People who made themselves available to the machine's users, and who put their heart and soul into sustaining the Amiga and kept the faith when all looked bleak.

I've really enjoyed my tenure on *Amiga Format*, and although I'm back off to console land, I'll still be keeping an eye on *AF* to make sure standards don't fall. See ya!



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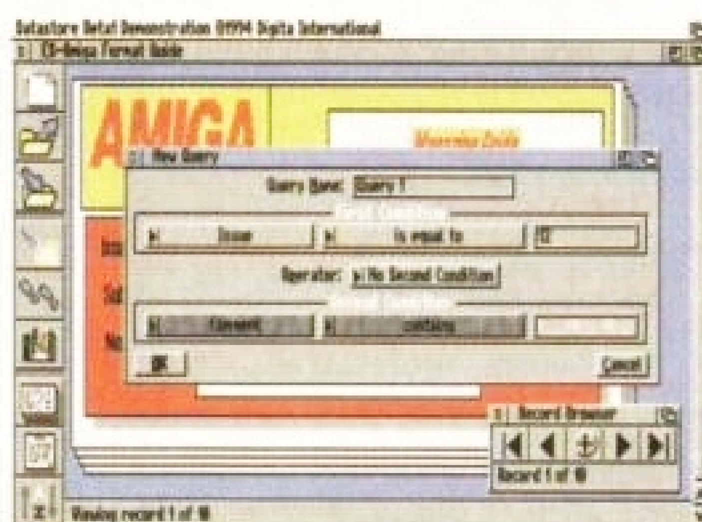
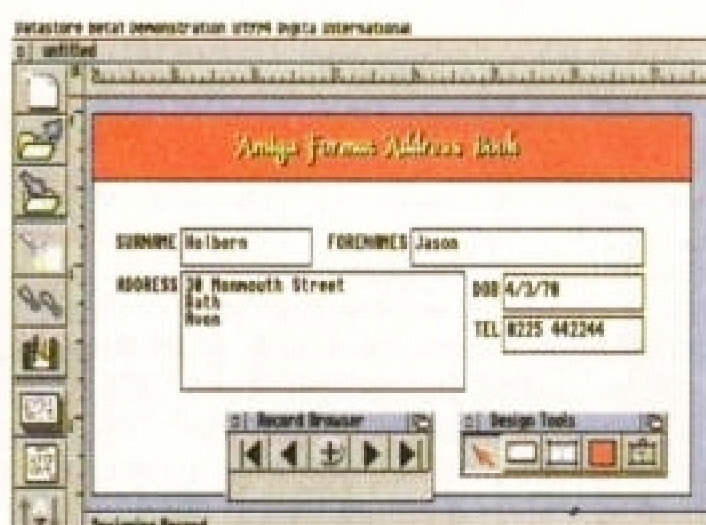
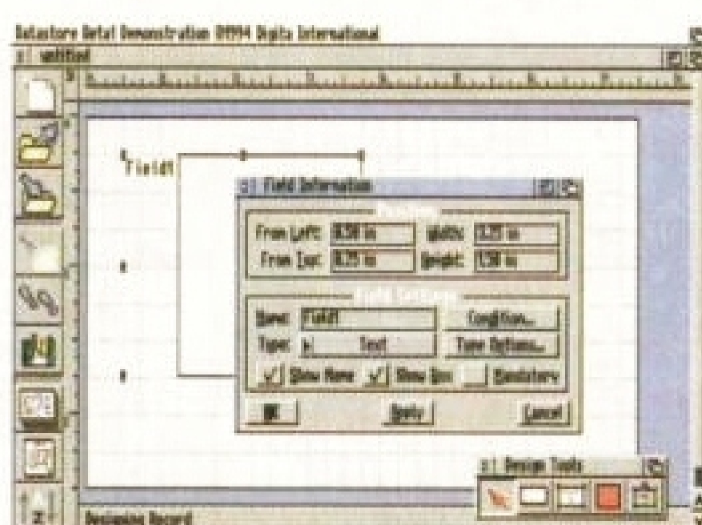
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CITIZEN SWIFT 240C COLOUR PRINTER. 24 PIN, 240CPS/80LQ ... 219.99
CANON BJ-200 BUBBLE JET PRINTER. 248CPS, 8 TYPEFACES ... 229.99

CITIZEN TRACTOR FEED KIT FOR CITIZEN ABC PRINTER ... 38.99
CITIZEN PRINTER DRIVER KIT FOR AMIGA - ENHANCES PRINT ... 12.99
DUST COVER FOR 80 COLUMN PRINTER (CLEAR PVC) ... 5.99
PRINTER STAND FOR ANY PRINTER ... 8.99
RIBBON (BLACK) FOR CITIZEN 24, 200, 224, 240 OR ABC ... 6.99
RIBBON (COLOUR) FOR CITIZEN 9, 90, 24, 200, 224, 240 OR ABC ... 14.99
COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF PRINTERS AND RIBBONS IN STOCK

AMIGA FORMAT COVERDISKS

WITH THIS MONTH'S COVERDISKS YOU CAN...

Get organised! This exclusive demo of Digita's *Datastore* will help you keep track of dates, games, names and *AF*!




Indulge in a special slice of one of the biggest Amiga games of all time! If war is hell, polish your horns and get stuck in...

Cannon Fodder 2



ABOVE: Seasonally out of date, but strangely Sensible, nonetheless.



RIGHT: The first level sees you dropped straight into the deep end. As soon as the mission starts, you're surrounded by enemy soldiers. Blast them to bits, and then go and blow up the huts.

There's a very small chance that you may not have played any of the *Cannon Fodder* games before. In that case, Steve Bradley barks the orders...

Once upon a time, there was a game called *Cannon Fodder*. It sold over one hundred thousand copies and remains a landmark in Amiga games. It has returned, this time including a variety of themed worlds such as Chicago and Alien World, and four tough levels of *Cannon Fodder 2* are also on the menu this month.

If you are unfamiliar with the concept, it goes thus: you are in almost complete control of four men. Four men who have guns. Four men who

Once again, *Amiga Format* has dredged the sea of software to provide the very brightest treasures for your delectation and, no doubt, delight. Turn on, plug in and enjoy...

THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO BOOM!

WEAPONS
Walk over the the box and you pick up four bombs or four missiles. Once collected, these extra weapons can be activated by clicking first on the right mouse button, followed swiftly by clicking on the left. But move sharpish or you'll get killed by your own bomb. Which isn't funny (unless you're watching someone else).

HUT
Huts are full of enemy soldiers, who come pouring out when you're near. Destroy the huts first, and cut down enemy numbers significantly.

SNIPER
This chap can cut you down from a long way off. So tread carefully. And warily as well.







can collect missiles and bombs and use them to mercilessly destroy their hapless foe. Four men, readers, who live or die through your ability to control a mouse. The responsibility is yours. Of course, *Cannon Fodder 2* is a computer game and therefore fun, so if the chaps do happen to get wiped out (and you were solely to blame), there are always more to take their place.

You can choose which level you want to have a blast at by, somewhat obviously, clicking on whichever one takes your fancy on the menu screen. Levels one and four are modern-day Middle East affairs, while levels two and three offer you the chance to pit your wits against aliens. And when you die, which is inevitable, you will be whisked back to the menu screen whereupon you can, very much unlike real life, have another go.

Information is strictly on a need-to-know basis, and indeed, the challenge would be lessened if we were to offer you walk-through guides of the levels. So the word is 'mum'. Go to it.



Head to the right-hand side, but split your men up because the devil's own cannon awaits around the corner.

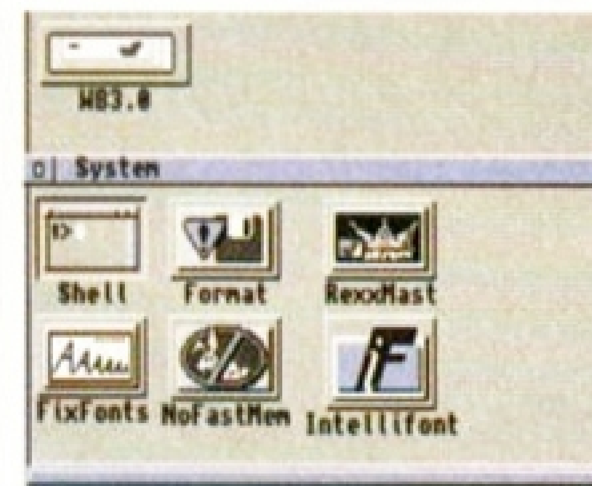


Your first encounter with the aliens involves lots of sneaking around, hiding behind walls and picking off the snipers.

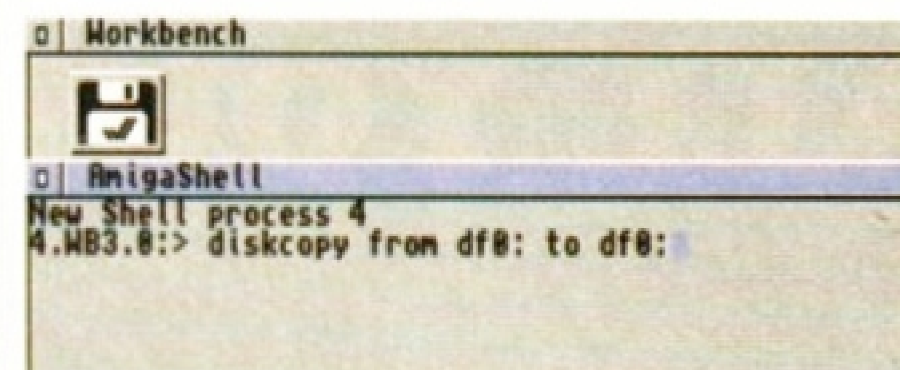
Continued overleaf ➡

BACKING UP YOUR COVERDISK

Copying your Coverdisk is very simple. Just follow the stages below...

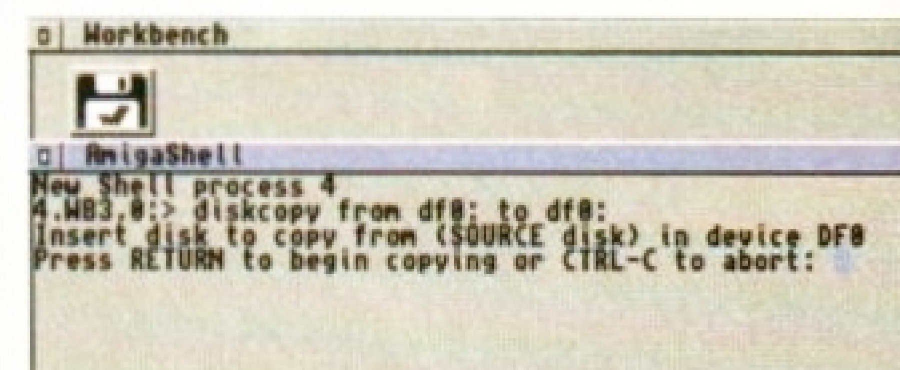


1 Boot up with your Workbench disk, and find the Shell icon, in your system drawer. Double-click on this to go into the Shell.

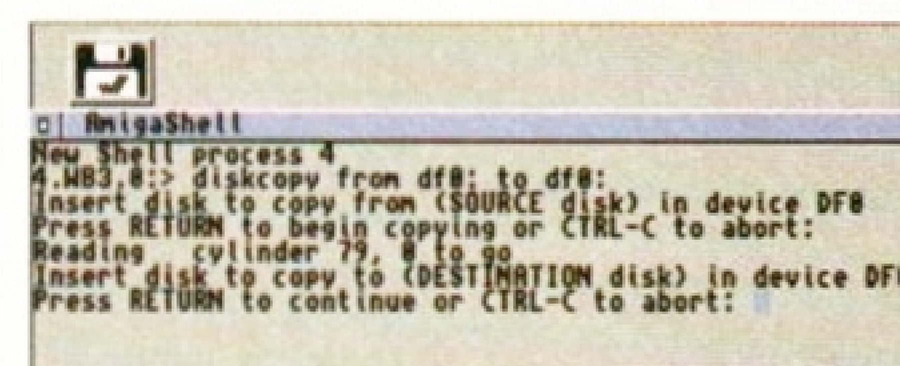


2 Type in the following line exactly as it appears here, taking care to put the spaces in the correct places:

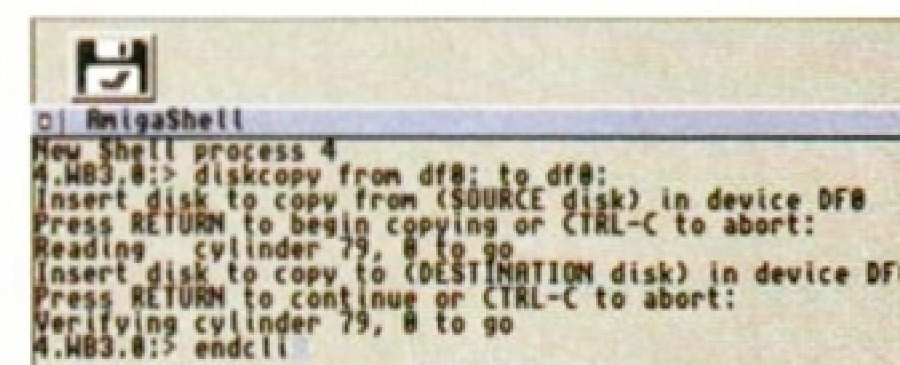
DISKCOPY FROM DFO: TO DFO:



3 When asked for the source disk, insert the Coverdisk and press Return. All of the information on this disk will then be copied from the disk into memory.



4 Once your Amiga has read the info, it will ask for the destination disk. Insert the disk you want to copy to and press Return. All information on this disk will be destroyed.



5 On an unexpanded machine, the Amiga may ask for the source disk again, as it copies in chunks. Finally, type Endcli to close down the Shell. Your copy is complete.

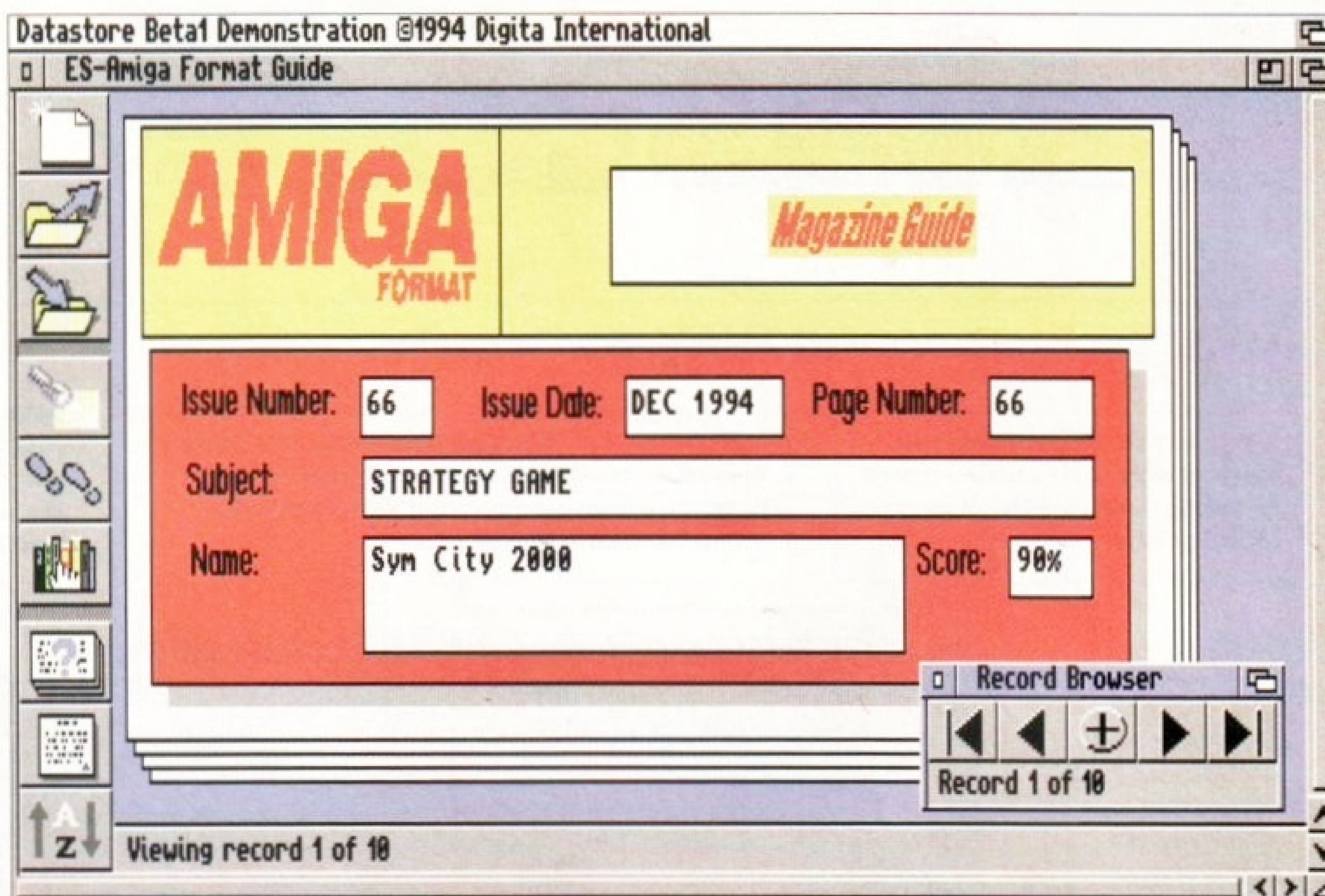
DISK NOT WORKING?

We take every care to test the Coverdisk software, but Future Publishing cannot accept any responsibility for any data loss or other damage occurring during its use. If your disk is faulty, send it back, including a stamped addressed envelope for a free replacement to:

***Amiga Format* (insert the name of the disk) Disk, Discopy Labs Ltd, PO Box 21, Daventry, NN11 5RT.**



Datastore



There's a complete record of every game and serious review ever printed in *AF* on your *Datastore* Coverdisk.

Digita's new *Datastore* is the database with a difference – it's easy to use, colourful and... well find out for yourself with this exclusive *AF* demo.

Everyone could do with a database some time. Whether you want to keep track of your burgeoning music collection, maintain a list of friends' and relatives' addresses or you simply want to keep track of the articles in your back issues of *Amiga Format*, you'll be needing a decent database. And, as it happens, they don't come any more decent than Digita's new *Datastore*.

For the uninitiated, a database is a program that acts as an electronic filing cabinet. That is, it lets you store and organise information on your computer. What information you choose to organise is entirely up to you – a database simply provides a quick and easy method of compiling complicated sets of records which can be accessed in an instant.

For example, if you wanted to maintain a mailing list, instead of having to manually search for a given record within that list, you can simply provide *Datastore* with the surname of the person you're interested in and the program then extracts that record in a jiffy.

What makes Datastore so special is its sheer ease of use and friendliness. If you've ever used a database before then *Datastore* will come as something of a shock – put simply, it's the most straightforward Amiga database ever. Much of the program's friendliness can be credited to its superb user interface which is based around the same excellent front end used by Digita's popular *Wordworth 3.1* word processor. For professionals and first time users alike, *Datastore* is ideal.

With *Datastore*, you can quickly and easily create complex database files consisting of a variety of different field types including dates, text, Boolean switches and even pictures. What's more, you can customise the appearance of your database records using *Datastore*'s comprehensive range of drawing functions. Once you've designed your database to suit your own particular requirements, you can enter records and then extract the information you want using *Datastore*'s powerful VCR-like record browser.

● **This is a demo version of the full *Datastore* program. The print function has been disabled and you are limited to 10 records.**

Continued overleaf ➡

THE AF DATABASE

To help you get the very most from your *AF* back issues, Digita have provided a demonstration database that lists each and every game and serious product ever reviewed in the hallowed pages of *Amiga Format*. If you wish to use this database, however, you must ensure that the second *Datastore* disk is called DS-Files. Use with the Rename... option from the Workbench Icons pull down menu.

UNPACKING DATASTORE

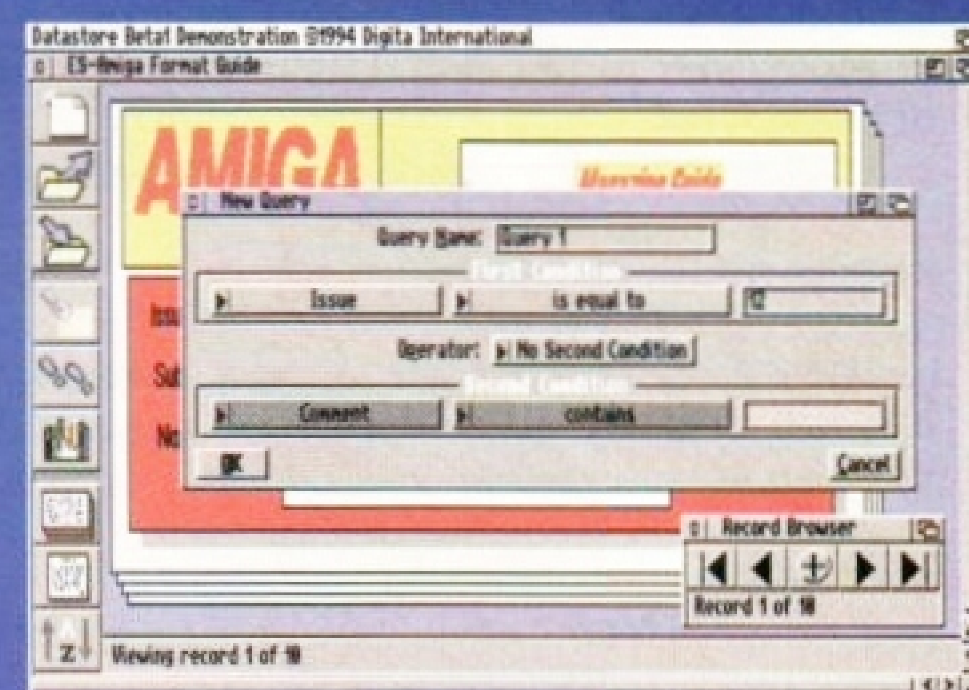
***Datastore* is such a big program that it will not run directly from our Coverdisk. In order to run it, therefore, it must first be decompressed on to a separate set of floppy disks. Follow these simple instructions and you won't go far wrong.**

1 Before you even attempt to boot from our *Datastore* Coverdisk, make sure that you have two blank formatted disks at the ready (if you don't, format a couple of disks from the Workbench now). These two disks will hold the *Datastore* program and associated files.

2 Insert your *Datastore* Coverdisk into your Amiga's internal drive and then switch on your Amiga. After a few seconds, an *AmigaDOS* window appears prompting you to insert a formatted disk. Remove your Coverdisk and replace it with one of your formatted floppies. Once you've done this, press the Return key. The first *Datastore* disk will then be decompressed. This may take some time so be patient.

3 After a couple of minutes, you'll be asked to replace the *Datastore* Coverdisk. Remove your first formatted floppy, label it Datastore1 and then reinsert your Coverdisk. When prompted to insert a formatted floppy disk, replace your Coverdisk with your second blank formatted floppy and press the Return key again. The second *Datastore* disk will then be decompressed on to your floppy disk.

4 Once this second disk has been decompressed, remove the disk from your Amiga's internal drive and switch off your Amiga. Insert your first *Datastore* disk into your Amiga's internal drive, switch on your machine and your Amiga will boot from this *Datastore* disk. When Workbench appears, double-click on the icon for your *Datastore* disk and then double-click on the *Datastore* program icon. *Datastore* will then load into memory.



Before you can use *Datastore* you must decompress it on to two blank disks, so make sure you've got two formatted disks ready before you start.

Dabbling with Datastore

HOW TO FIND YOUR WAY AROUND

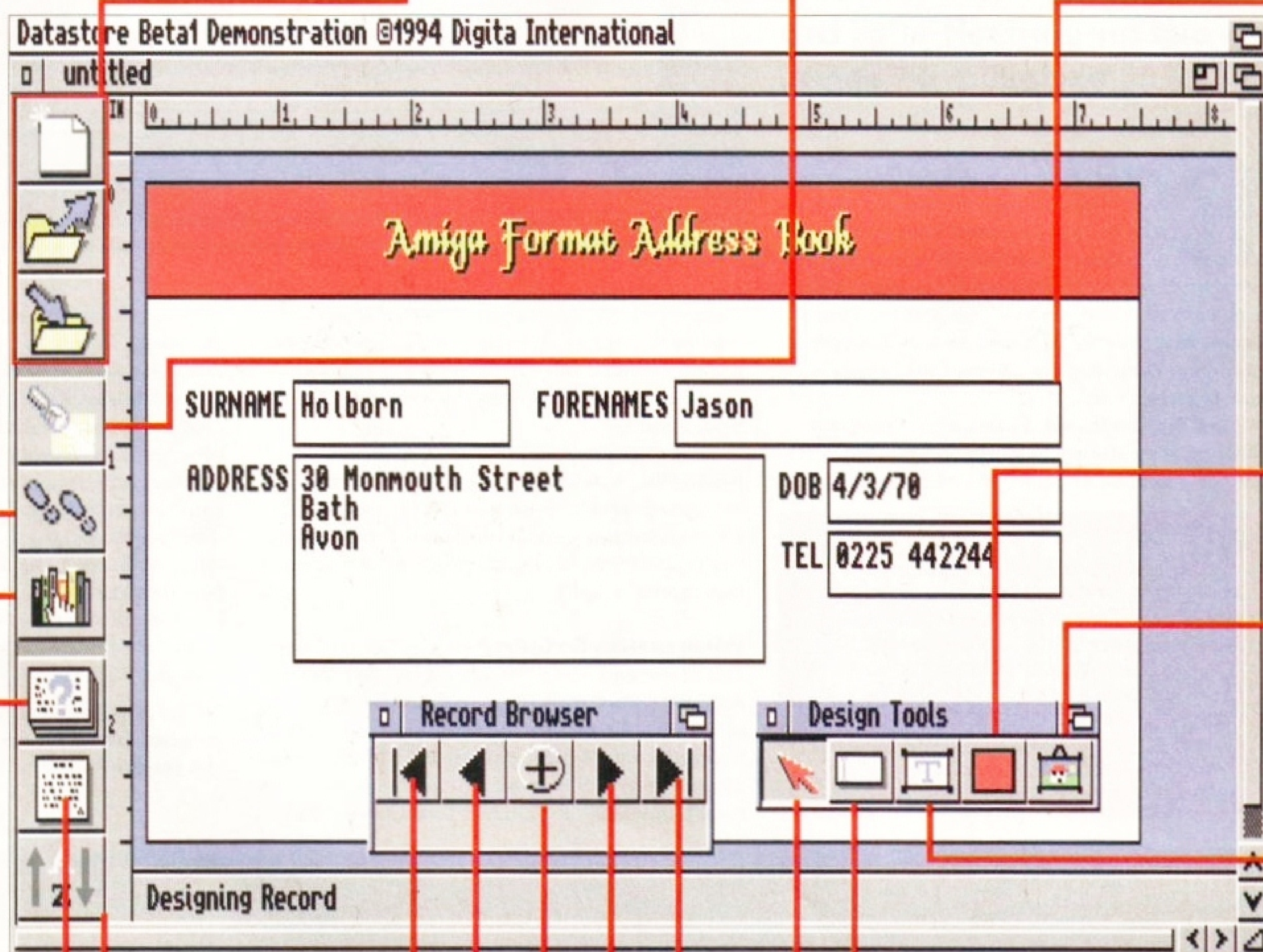
GOTO: The Goto option lets you jump directly to a specified record by telling *Datastore* the relevant record number.

NEW/OPEN/SAVE: Fairly obvious these. Use Open to read an existing database into memory, New to create a new database and Save to save the current database to disk.

FIND - As its name suggests, the Find option lets you search for a given record within your database without having to manually wade through each and every record (the traditional method).

LIBRARIAN: This provides a quick and easy method of inserting text which you use over and over again without having to retype it each time. Use this function when entering record data.

QUERY: The Query option lets you interrogate your database for information. What makes this option so special is that it lets you display records based upon a search criteria – all females over 18 who are single, for example. This option is not available when designing your database form.



REPORT: This creates reports that list the contents of specified fields. So, you could generate a report that lists the birthdays of every person in an address book. This option is not available when designing your database form.

FIRST RECORD: Jumps directly to the first record in your database.

LAST RECORD: Displays the last database record.

PREVIOUS RECORD: Flips to the previous record.

NEXT RECORD: Flips to the next record.

SORT: The records that you enter into your database are not automatically sorted into order. Instead, your database must be sorted en masse using the Sort tool. *Datastore* lets you decide which fields your database is sorted on and in what order. Note that this option is not available when designing your database form.

INSERT NEW RECORD: Clicking on this button lets you insert a new record into your database. Once selected, a cursor appears in the first field, allowing you to enter information via the keyboard. After you've typed something into the first field, press the Tab key to flick to the next field. Do not use the Return key until the last field has been entered.

GET YOUR HANDS ON THE REAL THING!

If you're suitably impressed with our demonstration version of *Datastore*, why not shell out some readies on the full package? Retailing for £69.99, it can be bought directly from Digita on 01395 270 273.

WORKING RECORD AREA: This area of the screen is where all the action takes place. Records are displayed and new records created by editing the contents of this area.

BOX TOOL: The box tool provides *Datastore* with rudimentary drawing capabilities. You can use this tool to draw boxes of any size and colour.

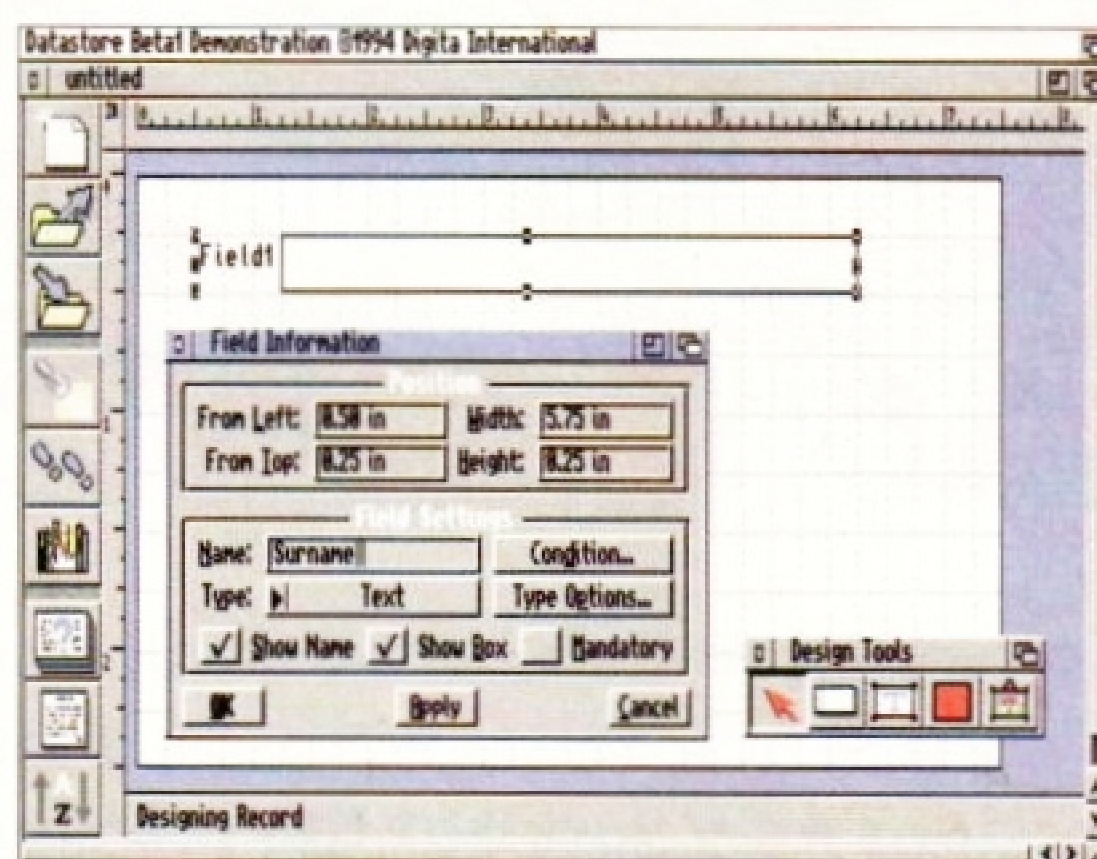
PICTURE FRAME TOOL: This tool is used to place a static IFF image such as a logo on to your database forms. The same image is displayed on each and every record in your database (a bit like headed paper).

CAPTION TOOL: This tool lets you place text on to your database forms using any standard Amiga font. Captions can be used as labels or titles which are repeated on every record.

FIELD TOOL: This all-important tool is used to create new fields which act as pigeon holes for each discrete item of information you'd like your database to hold. In an address book database, for example, you'd have a field for surnames, another for forenames and so on.

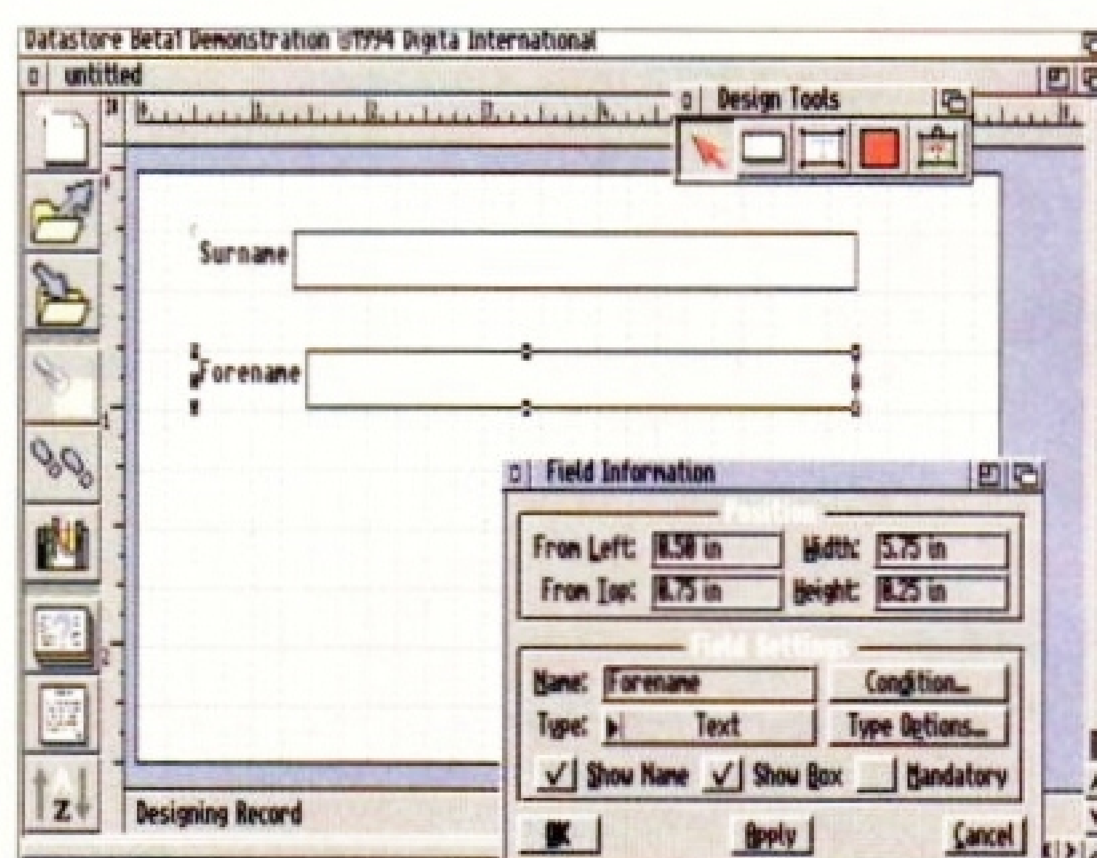
ARROW POINTER: Use this tool to modify any of the objects (boxes, fields and so on) that you may have already created.

CREATING YOUR OWN DATABASE

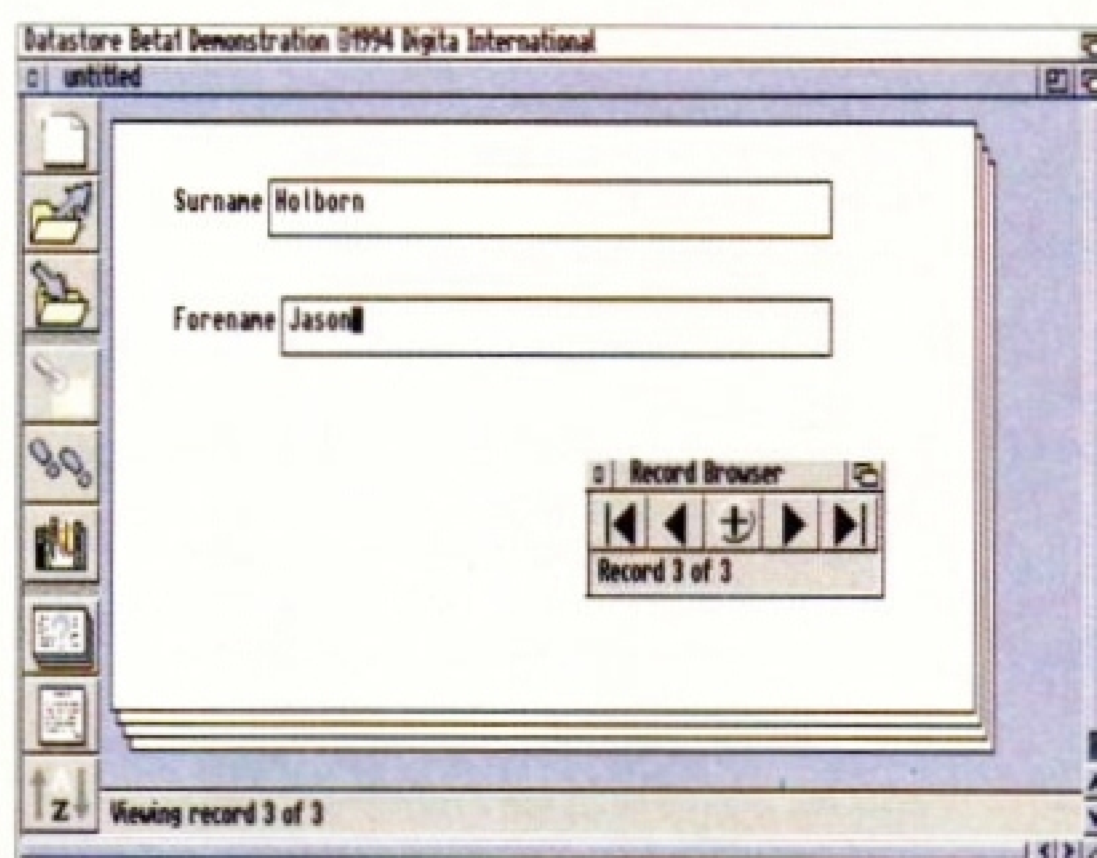


1 When *Datastore* is first loaded, a new database is automatically opened for you. By default, *Datastore* opens your database in design mode – the mode used to define the format of your database and the form which is used to display each record within that database. At this point, no fields (the pigeon holes that hold information) have been defined so we need to start by creating at least one field.

Click on the Field tool from the Design toolbar and then click and, while holding down the left mouse button, drag out a rectangle of approximately the same dimensions as the one shown. A window labelled Field Information appears on the screen. This window lets you define the appearance and the type of data that your field will hold. Use the Name gadget to change the name of your field to something more relevant – Surname, for example. Once you're finished, click on the OK gadget to accept any changes you may have made.

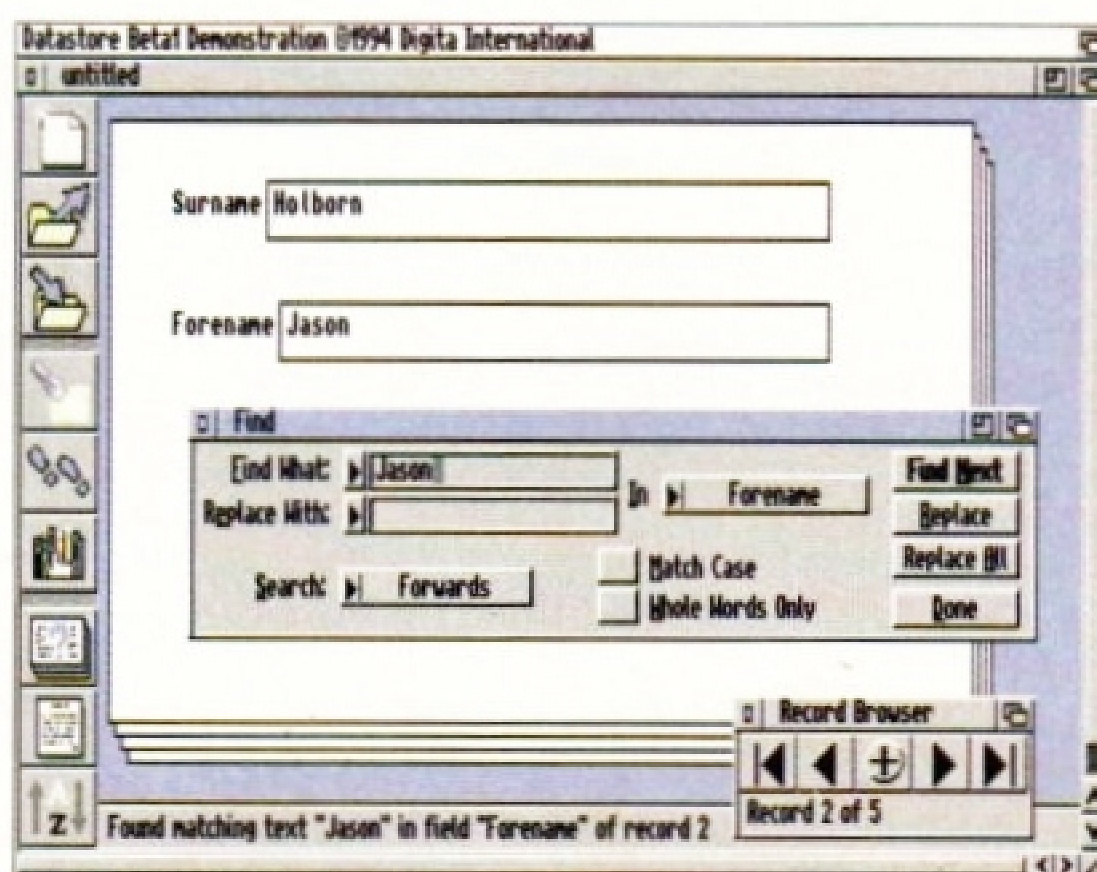


2 Now that we've defined one field, let's define a second using exactly the same method. Use the Field tool again but this time define a field of the same dimensions immediately below your first field. This time, however, call it Forename when the Field Information window appears.



3 Now that we've defined the format of our records, let's enter some information into our database. Select the Edit Records option from the Edit pull-down menu and the Design toolbar is replaced by the *Datastore* Record Browser window. This window lets you move backwards and forwards through your database and even enter new records.

Our database doesn't contain any records at the moment so let's enter something useful into our database. Click on the Insert Record button in the Record Browser and a cursor appears inside the first field. Enter your surname and then press the Tab key to move on to the next field. Once information has been fed into both fields, press the Return key. You have entered your first record.



4 A database with just one record isn't really that useful so enter a few more records using the same method detailed in step 3. Once you've entered a few records, have a go at searching for a record using *Datastore*'s Find tool.

Click on the Find gadget and a window labelled Find appears on the screen. This requester lets you search for a given record by feeding *Datastore* something to base its search on – part of a name, a street name or whatever. Worth noting is the In gadget which lets you define which fields *Datastore* will search. By default, all fields will be searched but you can speed the process up by limiting *Datastore* to a single field.

AMIGA FORMAT COVERDISKS

GOT A PROBLEM WITH YOUR COVERDISK? CALL 0191-385 2627



Your Coverdisk should be working fine, but if not, these hints, tips and corrections may sort out the problem for you quickly and easily.

EXTRA!

MUSIC-X AF58



A600 owners, and anyone else with only Chip RAM, should follow the instructions for A1200 owners, otherwise they will find they have little room for samples. Also, many people seem to be getting a message regarding missing fonts. The fonts are on the disk, OK! If you boot up from the *Music-X* program disk, like it says to do in the instructions, there is no problem.

If you want to boot off any other disk, copy the fonts into the FONTS: drawer of your boot-up disk. This is not complicated – it is how the Amiga works (and the PC and the Mac).

PAGESETTER 2 AF63

There are no problems with this program, but a few people seem to be having difficulty with fonts. *PageSetter 2* works with CompuGraphic fonts, but it needs an .atc file. If your font doesn't have one, *PageSetter 2* won't recognise it.

THEME PARK AF64

Not a problem, but a cheat for this rather good demo of a rather excellent game.

If you press the C key during the loading screen a message appears, informing you that the cheat mode is active. You will now have lots of cash to buy oodles of rides and things!

LIBS, FONTS AND ALL THAT

There are lots of files and commands associated with the normal operation of software. You may not see them until you try to install software:

LIBRARIES – These are compact routines which are compiled as a separate library. They contain commonly-used routines so programmers can write new utilities without having to re-code all the basic routines all the time. Libraries should be located in the LIBS drawer of your start-up disk.

FONTS – Amiga fonts come in many varieties, but the most common are bitmap fonts. The majority of programs use the system fonts, but some use their own. In this case, the font must be present in the FONTS: drawer of your start-up disk.

ASSIGN – The assign command is used to make pathname shortcuts. It does this by creating a logical or virtual device – one that doesn't exist, but points to a pathname that does. The usage is:

```
Assign <device name> <path name>
```

So, if you had installed a program from disk called *Paint* and installed it to a hard drive in the utilities drawer, your command might look like:

```
Assign Paint: hd0;Utilities
```



PAGESETTER 3 SOLUTIONS

Although it is not actually a Coverdisk, some of you have been experiencing problems with *PageSetter 3*, the upgrade to our great *PageSetter 2* Coverdisk (*AF63*).

The problem seems to involve people running this software from a floppy drive. It has to be said that Gold Disk's install script and documentation are less than perfect.

Firstly, you do not actually have to run the floppy install program to run the software, you can just boot from disk one and run the program from disk two (although the print option will not work). To solve these problems, the easiest thing to do is make some additions to a copy of your Workbench disk. Here are the steps you should follow:

1. Make a copy of your original Workbench disk, or your usual start-up disk.
2. Using a text editor (such as *ED*), add the following to your start-up sequence (before the ENDcli command), or your user start-up if you have one.

```
Assign Fonts: PS3Fonts:Fonts
Assign CGFonts: PS3Fonts:Fonts
Assign s: PS3Page:
```

3. Now save the file (using Escape then x if you are using *ED*) and reboot your machine with this disk.
4. From Workbench, select and delete the Tools and Utilities drawers (or otherwise make room for the library files).
5. Open a Shell and type the following:

```
copy PS3Install:s/page#? s:
copy PS3Install:libs/FontEngine.library Libs:
endcli
```

(If you are using a GB keymap, the superscript 3 is obtained by pressing Alt-3)
6. Reboot from this disk again. Insert the PS³Page disk and double-click on the program's icon. It should now run, and print to your selected printer.
7. To install more fonts, you should use the original Install program, because this updates the special font list *PageSetter* uses to tell which fonts are available.

HOW TO CONTACT AMIGA FORMAT

The best way to get an answer from *Amiga Format* is to make sure you're addressing your letter to the right person (or, indeed, department)...
- We get hundreds of letters and faxes a day, so we can't reply in person.
- *Amiga Format* is available for enquiries by telephone every Tuesday between 10.30am and 6pm, but please make sure your call is really necessary.
- Our advertising complaints department can help with problems with companies who advertise in *AF* if you phone during normal office hours.
- Our subscriptions service and the *Amiga Format* Mail Order department can be contacted on 01225 822511.

WORKBENCH: If you have any problems with the technical side of your Amiga, with hardware or with serious software, Nick Veitch will answer you in the mag. If you have advice or tips for other readers, send them in and you could win a prize.
Workbench, *Amiga Format*, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW.

GAMEBUSTERS: If you've found a cheat mode, mapped out the levels, or found all the passwords for the latest game, send the info to Steve Bradley and you could win a prize. Or, if you're stuck, ask Helping Hand for advice.
Stephen Bradley, GameBusters, *Amiga Format*, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW.

READERS' LETTERS: The letters pages are there for you to air your views and share your opinions; please remember not to ask questions that should be in Workbench!
Letters To The Editor, *Amiga Format*, 30 Monmouth St, Bath BA1 2BW.

COMPETITIONS: To enter a competition, write the answers and your name, address and phone number on the back of a postcard.
Whatever Competition, *Amiga Format*, 29 Monmouth St, Bath BA1 2DL.

SPECIAL OFFERS: If you've ordered something from the *AF* Mail Order and you've got a problem, call our Mail Order department on 01225 822511.
Amiga Format Mail Order, Future Publishing, FREEPOST (BS4900), Somerton, Somerset TA11 6BR.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: If you have any subscription enquiries then write to:
Amiga Format Subscriptions, Future Publishing, FREEPOST (BS4900), Somerton, Somerset TA11 6BR.

FAULTY COVERDISKS: If you have a faulty disk, DON'T return it to us: send it, enclosing an SAE, to: *Amiga Format* (insert the name of the disk) Disk, DisCopy Labs Ltd, PO Box 21, Daventry NN11 5RT.

ESP Sports Management



PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL MASTERS 5 VERSION

The Most Innovative Football Management Game Ever.

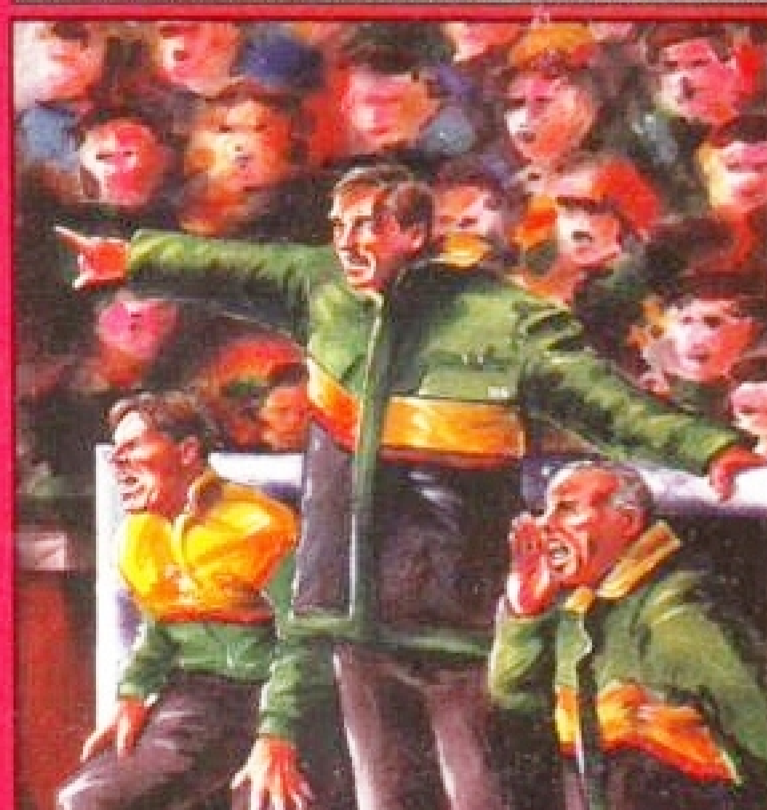
On the hardest level this very realistic simulation will test you to the limit. See if you've got what it takes to master the professional football league managers job using the most refined game available today.

In 1989 E.S.P. were the first company to create a commercial football management game solely dedicated to the 16 bit computers. Since then, we've been continuously devising new features with the direct consultation of hundreds of management game fans. This winning combination has created the most accurate representation of what football management is all about. Once you try it, you'll realise that the rest have merely been following our numerous leads in this field.

It's impossible to do justice to the hundreds of meticulous refinements included in this game but you will find a large proportion of the most significant below:-

Managers : 1 to 4 Human players, Performance statistics, Manager of the month/season, Pick any team in any division to start with, Automated features to make the game as easy or hard as you like.
League & Cup : Premier 22 teams, Division 1,2 & 3 have 24 teams, Play-offs, Tables. 7 Cup competitions with precise rules (2 legs, extra time, away goal rule, seeded draws, European Cup tables, 5 subs, non-domestic player restrictions etc.)
Games : Yearly fixture/previous list, Week fixtures/results, Results from previous meeting with opponent, a plethora of statistics.
Players : Real life statistics for 94/95 season, updated monthly. Real positions, height, age. Live transfer market, Contract & wage negotiations, Preferred foot (left/right/both), Loans, Injuries, Training, Special talents, Trainees, Goalkeepers (separate skill categories), Defenders, Midfielders, Attackers & Utility, Retirements, Foreign transfers, Unhappy players, Top 10 Hot shots.
Team : Tactics (1000 different combinations), Training, Aggression, Formation allows specific player field settings (Winger, Sweeper etc.).
Club : Sponsorship, Ground improvements, View opponent, Finances.
The Match : Real time scoreboard reporting goals & injuries yellow/red cards, Sound effects, Interventions permitted at any time to change tactics, formations and make subs. Physical graphical penalty participation (optional). Over 80 different referees.
Other : Fast load/save, Printer access, Over 30 options to set various game preferences, User friendly throughout with an excellent instruction book. Personal technical support if required. **SCOTTISH, ITALIAN & GERMAN VERSION 5's** coming soon.
Editor: Allows you to amend various items in saved games. Optional Extra.

Places now available in our 94 manager PBM service and a limited number of Play By Mail operator licenses. Call Us For Further Details.





THE PULSE Horse Racing Tipping System

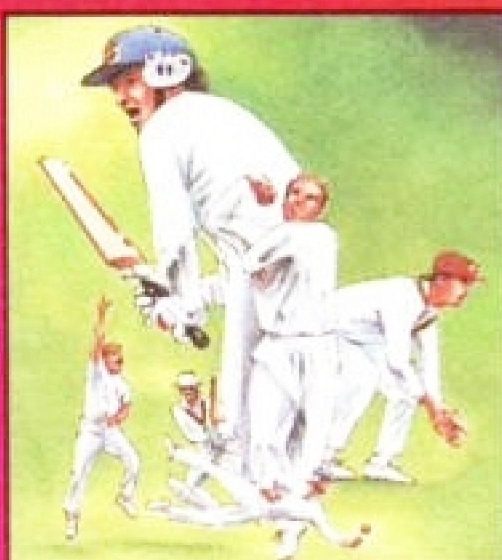


If you want the best horse tipping software that money can buy, then THE PULSE is it. The whole package has been developed by a professional punter. A fact, instantly recognised by many other well informed buyers of this product. The advise contained within the instruction book alone could save you plenty of wasted bets and anyone serious about reducing their losses or increasing their gains could not find a better tool to assist their aim.

• The mystic of horse racing is unlocked with the simple instructions, user friendly program and top class technical support. • In the last Open National Tipping Competition (1991) organised by Racecall this programs predictions came 2nd out of thousands of entries which led to a serious approach from a well know bookmaker, rejected in favour of supporting the public. • A wide range of built in statistics make rating a race a quick and easy job, compared to other available systems. • To keep the program constantly up-to-date monthly updates are recommended . If the general program guide-lines fail to break even we send free updates to all entitled purchasers. Prices range from £25 to £40 depending the on length of subscription undertaken. • Specific details on some horses to follow, as recommended by a variety of inside sources is provided with each monthly update. • There's been many reviews in the press and under a variety of scrutinising conditions. All were very positive about the programs ability to perform well and a full summary of the developers results from main meetings since January 1993 is available upon request.

WORLD CUP CRICKET MASTERS

A fantastic graphical and/or tactical representation of Cricket that has been completely written by a traditional fan. You can physically participate with batting and/or bowling or leave it to the computer to automatically handle. See full feature list below:-



PLAYER VARIETY
- Rated on 8 adjustable factors.
- Left and right handed players.
- Range of batting types.
- Editor to amend game stats.
- Bowler types include seam, swing, change and both types of spin with 8 speed levels.

GAME OPTIONS
- 1 Day limited overs or test.
- White or coloured clothing.
- Three Cricket grounds.
- Load/Save game. Skill levels.
- Computer/Human players.

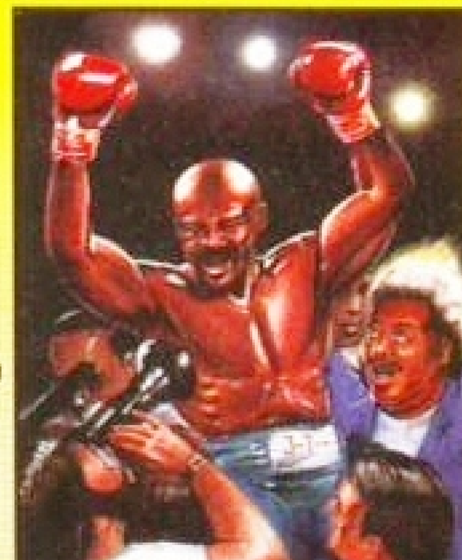
FRIENDLY CONTROLS
- Icon driven with point & click.
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- Wagon Wheel
- Manhattan Chart.

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ANIMATED ACTION
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- All the strokes cut, pull, drive, etc.
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- Bouncers, wides and no balls.

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- The game has 100 ranked boxers with fourteen shown attributes, retirements on age and injury.
- Negotiate fight deals with twenty other boxing managers, arranging the size of the purse, the venue and the date etc.
- Choose any one of ten publicity stunts to pull in the crowds to your fights: press conferences, television, public brawls etc.
- You can appoint and fire a scout, physio, cornerman and a trainer. Training methods include punchbags, speedball, weights, roadwork and sparring.
- Your boxers can fight for World, European or National titles with mandatory defence. • The boxers performance in the ring is shown very graphically.
- A variety of tactics can be utilised during a fight; i.e. punch to the head, the body, inside and numerous time-wasting tactics.
- Fifteen ringside judges each have their own individual scorecards which are shown on the screen as the fight unfolds so that you can measure your fighter's performance. The reality of the fight is increased even more by the powerful sound effects of the crowds presence and the noise of the punches making contact.
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VERSION 4.5

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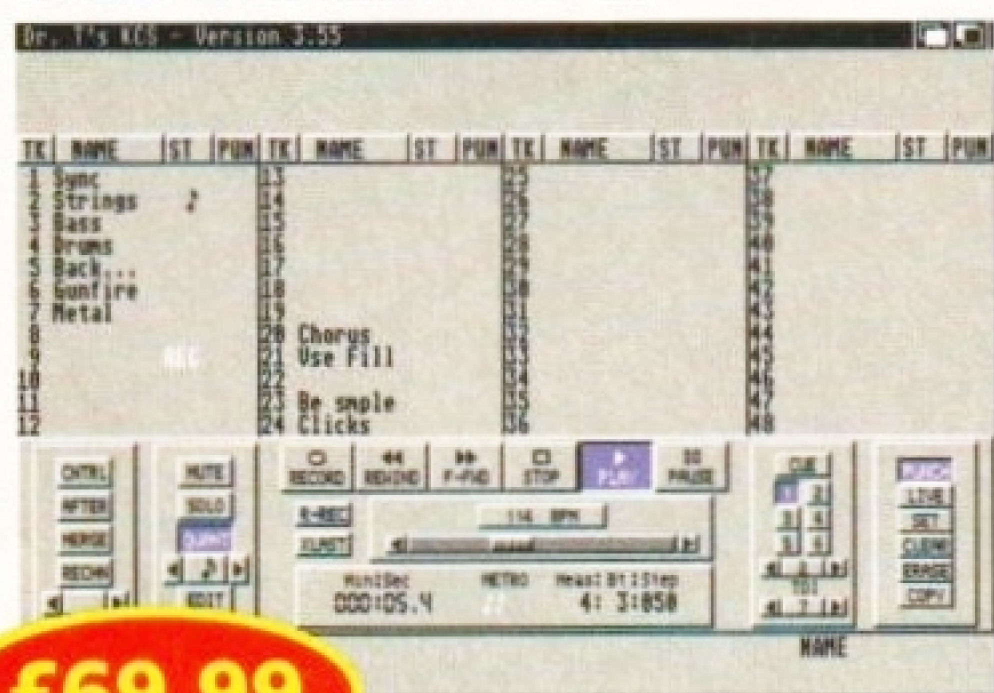
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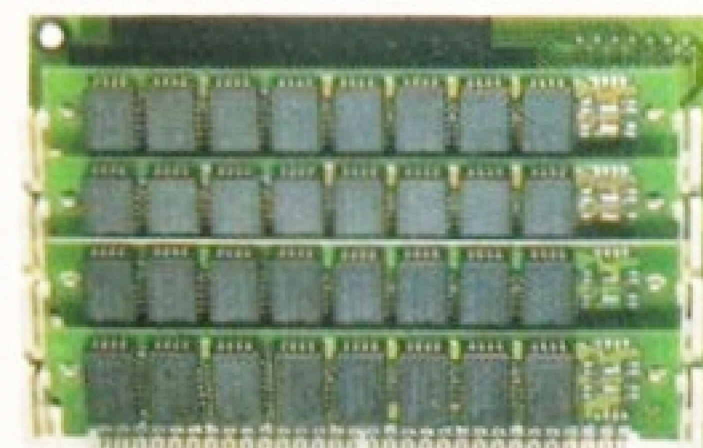
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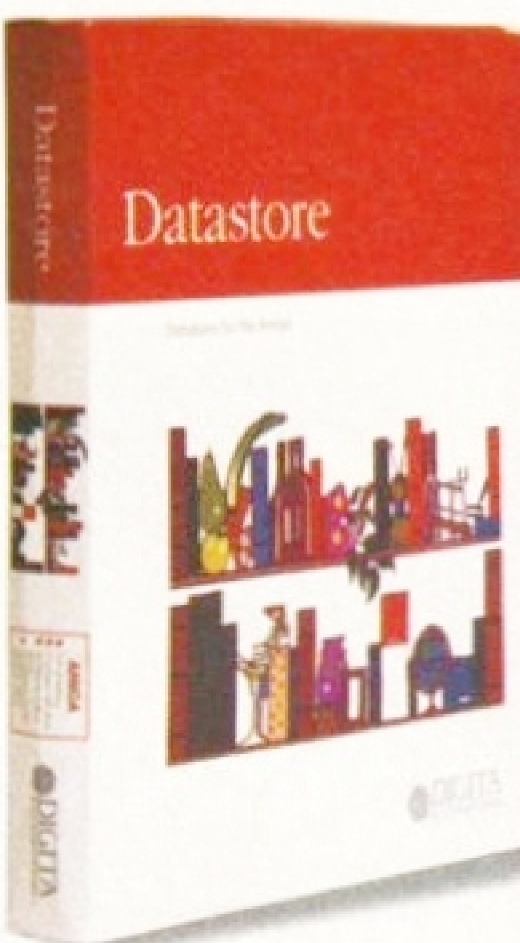


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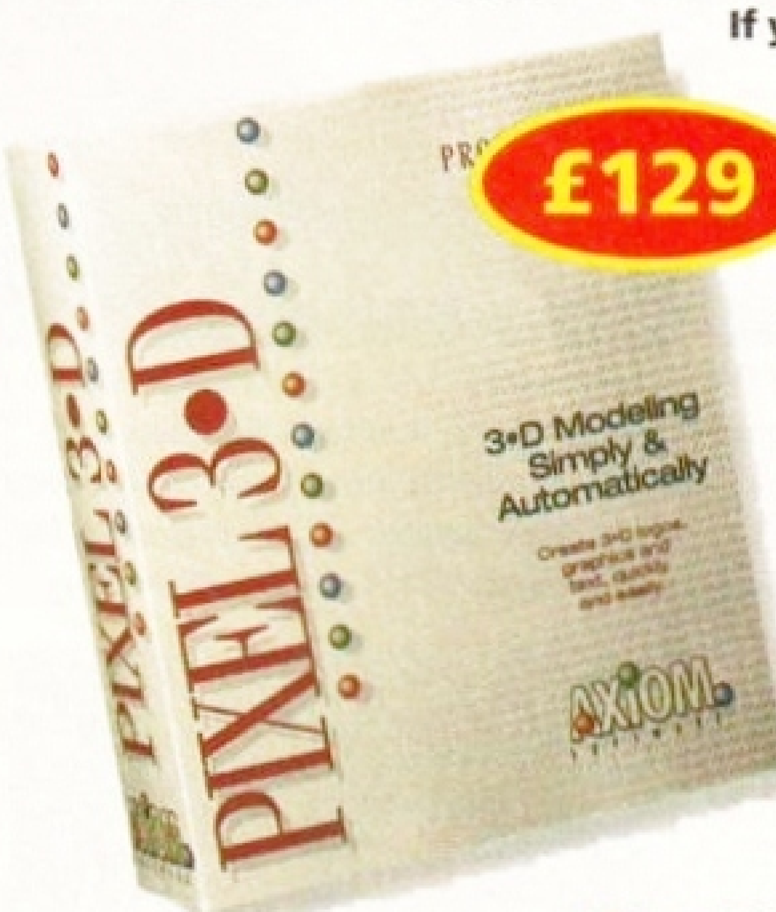


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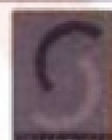
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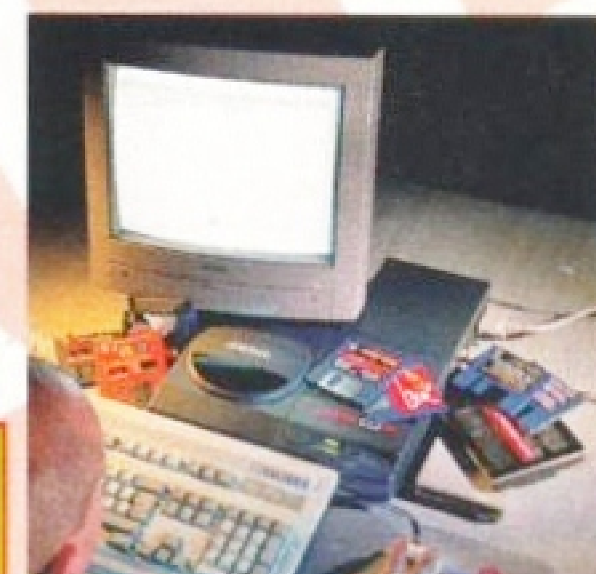
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AMIGA FORMAT news

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WOAarr! what a great show



Nick Veitch reports from the World Of Amiga Show at Wembley

Well, seeing as how everyone has been going on about the Amiga being dead you'd be better off with a PC mate now it's got *Lightwave* too, it must have been a surprise for everyone that the World Of Amiga Show took place at all.

Not only did it take place, but it was a thoroughly wonderful gathering. Lasting three days at the Wembley Exhibition Centre, there were some wild, weird and indeed wicked things on display. Exhibitors came from all over the world with representation from Europe, Australia and the USA.

It has to be said that it was not the biggest Amiga show ever, but it was certainly the most interesting. In spite of the question mark hanging over the Amiga there were an awful lot of new, exciting and groundbreaking things on display.

Snatching the title for the longest-awaited piece of hardware for the Amiga ever was the Roaster add-on. Yes, that's right, the much hyped, much delayed effects co-processor for the very popular *Opalvision* graphics board has arrived at last. White Knight are distributing this electronic masterpiece in the UK, and you can contact them on 01920 822244. They were also demonstrating something perhaps even more impressive – the Digital Broadcaster 32, a broadcast quality non-linear video editing system for the Amiga. Look out for reviews in a future issue of *Amiga Format*.

Possibly the most impressive piece of new software was the official launch by Almathera of *Photogenics*, the amazing new image processing/art package. Written by Paul Nolan and finished off by Almathera's top programmers, this is truly groundbreaking stuff. If you don't believe us, check out the review on page 90.

For sheer effort, if nothing else, the star of the show on the games side was the CD³² version of *Alien Breed 2: Tower Assault*. Whatever the review of the actual game, the full motion intro sequence is quite stunning. Amiga owners who attended the Future Entertainment Show will have seen a sneak preview of the *Lightwave*-generated graphics and effects, but this has now been cut together with the live action scenes. The comedy interest is provided by ex-*AF* editor, Marcus Dyson, who has obviously been sampling an awful lot of the

WINNERS!

Every day of the *World Of Amiga Show, Amiga Format* held a reader's raffle, the prize for which was a rather desirable CD³² bundle. In typical form, nobody who won was still there at the end of the day to collect the prize, so it looks like we'll have to post them. Those ever-so-lucky winners were:

Mr AP Payne of Basingstoke,
Mr G Strouthos of Cheshunt, Herts,
and Ms TG Parks of York.

FREE TICKET TO COMPUTER FAIR

Those of you who are still smitten with show fever should not worry. The Bruce Everiss All Formats Computer Fair runs throughout the year and there's plenty of stuff for Amiga users, and for those who want to look back on the nostalgia of the C64 or the Spectrum. To get you in the mood we have signed up an exclusive deal to allow you free entry to any of the shows up until the end of April.

We're really sorry, but the only way this can work is if you cut out the coupon below because no photocopies will be accepted. The venues and dates are all on the ticket, so off you go and have a good time.

ALL FORMATS COMPUTER FAIR

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STANDS ARE AVAILABLE FROM ONLY £60
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FREE ENTRY

JANUARY 1994
22 London Tolworth Recreation Centre, A3, Surbiton
28 North West Haydock Park Racecourse, J23, M6
29 Harrogate Royal Baths Assembly Rooms

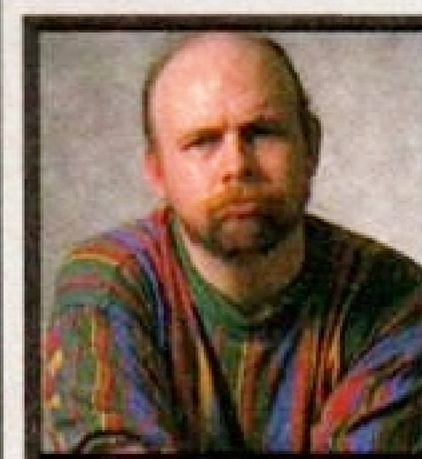
FEBRUARY
11 North East Northumbria Centre, Washington, Dist 12
12 Scotland Woodside Hall, St Georges X, Glasgow
18 North West Haydock Park Racecourse, J23,M6
19 Midlands National Motorcycle Museum, J6, M42
25 Bristol University of the West of England, J1, M32
26 London Tolworth Recreation Centre, A3, Surbiton

MARCH
11 North East Northumbria Centre, Washington, Dist 12
12 Scotland Woodside Hall, St Georges X, Glasgow
18 North West Haydock Park Racecourse, J23, M6
19 Midlands NAC (Royal Showground) Stoneleigh
25 Essex Courage Hall, Brentwood, J28, M25
26 London Tolworth Recreation Centre, A3, Surbiton

APRIL
1 North East Northumbria Centre, Washington, Dist 12
2 Scotland Woodside Hall, St Georges X, Glasgow
8 North West Haydock Park Racecourse, J23, M6
15 Worksop Bassetlaw Centre, Eastgate
16 Midlands National Motorcycle Museum, J6, M42
23 London Tolworth Recreation Centre, A3 Surbiton

ALL FORMATS COMPUTER FAIRS LIMITED
All Fairs 10am – 4pm
Redemption value 0.00001p







TOP: DPS were next to NewTek, and with the help of Joe Benzing and some legs, were demonstrating the *PAR* card.

TOP RIGHT: Helpful *Amiga Format* staff were on hand throughout to deal with reader enquiries and eat lots of sweets.

CENTRE: Just one of the seven wonders of the show, a leaning tower of *Cannon Fodder 2s*.

This was the venue for the launch of a new art package from Almathera. Everybody either went away very impressed, or very impressed and carrying a copy of *Photogenics*.

Northern brews since his move to Team 17 in Yorkshire. However, the Wakefield-based software house also receive the Northern Nonce award, because one of their number was seen to retire to bed leaving one-and-a-half pints of Guinness unattended in the hotel bar. Booo.

NEW CYBERSTORM

On the slightly more useful side, GP Software had come all the way from the land down under to demo *Directory Opus 5*, due for release soon. They were also showing the latest versions of *GPFax*, and *EasyLedgers*, reviewed in Issue 66.

If speed is your thing then you should have popped along to the Harwood stand, where the prototypes of the Cyberstorm 060 accelerator were on display. This monster of megaflops was clocking up over 80MIPS (Million Instructions Per Second) without breaking into a sweat. The result is an engine which can do anything approximately four times faster than a stock A4000/040. Unfortunately, the Cyberstorm will not be available until Motorola make some more 060s. At the moment there are only two in the hands of the German developers, but shipments in significant numbers should start soon.

Those of you with printers will be pleased to hear that Jeff Walker, who was running the *Just Amiga Monthly* stand, has now got stocks of *Studio Printer Software V2*. This is a new version of the rather excellent printer utility developed by Wolf Faust, and will be reviewed in the next issue of *Amiga Format*.

"Although this wasn't the biggest Amiga show, it was certainly the most interesting."

Frank Hoen of *Communicator* fame came along to the outrageously large and busy *Amiga Format* stand to show us *Communicator 2*, a new and improved method of connecting your CD^{32} to any Amiga, and transferring data at realistic speeds. Once again, we'll have to crowbar a review of that into next issue. The outrageously tall (6'6" at least) Mr Hoen also had a *Helm* update about his person, which he is hoping to distribute in the UK.

If anyone is really interested in emulating out-of-date operating systems, a new version of *PC Task* was on display, which supports various memory options enabling you to run some rubbish called *Windows* and attempt to master slow and unwieldy "professional" software.

All in all it was a momentous event, and rather like Agincourt, all those that missed it should forever feel accursed they were not there. Or at least make the effort to come to the next one.

TOWER SENSATION!

To those of you with an A1200, watch out for a full review of the A1200 Tower from Ramiga. This rather excellent piece of kit was on display at the World Of Amiga Show and attracted much attention, as indeed it deserved to. The Tower concept is simple – take an A1200 motherboard out of its case and install it in a Tower-style box. This gives you the ease-of-use and sturdy construction you need, especially if you want to mount extra devices such as multiple hard disks and CD-ROM drives. More than this, the Ramiga Tower gives you four Zorro II compatible slots, so expansion is no longer a problem.

The Tower will also have space for multiple disk drives and a connector for a PC-style keyboard. Emulation for Amiga keys is hard-coded to avoid any incompatibility problems.

Jeff Walker Column

If you didn't visit the World Of Amiga Show at Wembley, you missed the best Amiga exhibition there has ever been in this country. Never mind how many exhibitors there were or how many people came through the doors – although neither figure is actually anything to be ashamed of. I'm talking about quality, not quantity. Never before have we had an Amiga show where games took a back seat while Amiga applications and hardware companies from around the world demonstrated their wares to eager audiences. For instance, Phase 5 were knocking people's socks off with their 68060 accelerator and a new graphics card that had people gaping at its performance and gaping wider at its low price. Phase 5 were sharing a fairly large stand with Gordon Harwoods, who had also roped in Canon to show off the new colour bubble jets printing from *Final Writer*. As this trio was just across the way from me on the *JAM* stand I couldn't help but notice how busy they all were.

Next door to me were Blittersoft, who had pulled off the quite amazing feat of persuading Jim Drew of Utilities Unlimited to fly over and demonstrate *Emplant* with the Mac and prototype PC modules. Half an hour after opening time each day there was a crowd around Jim and Emplant. This crowd did not disperse until after the show had closed and they were (politely) threatened with physical ejection by security staff. Incredible to think that up until two weeks before the show Jim didn't actually have a passport. Bet he's glad he made the effort; I know his customers were, even if the PC module is still not yet finished, although Jim did publicly give a definite shipping date of mid-January.

ALMATHERA LAUNCHED *Photogenics* at the show and it seemed to me that every other visitor was walking around with a copy. What a smashing package they've put together there. Each of their daily theatre sessions was packed out within minutes of them being announced. Even the 2.30pm Sunday session was busy – just two hours before the end of the show when traditionally the only people left wandering around are a few thrifty souls hoping for last-minute bargains.

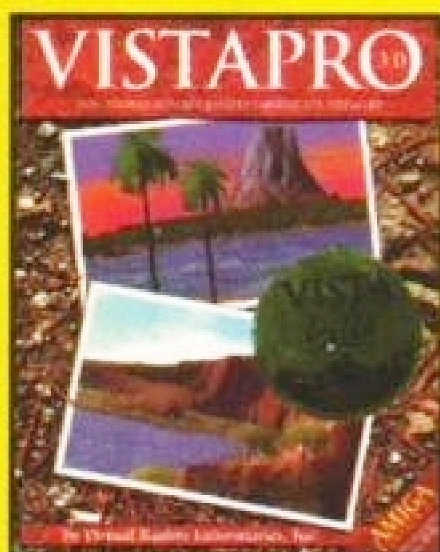
I didn't get to talk to as many exhibitors as I wanted to because I could rarely get away from my own stand. But when I did get away for 10 minutes here and there, everyone I spoke to was at least "happy" and mostly "overjoyed" with what was happening. There was relief in the air. While the doomsayers continue to shout loudly about the demise of the Amiga market, just about every exhibitor at WOA will tell you a different story.

DON'T LET anyone kid you the Amiga is dead. Far, far from it. Everywhere I looked at WOA I saw distributors and developers from around the world in huddles doing deals. Ramiga International's comfy sofas were so packed with them that at times they outnumbered the visitors to the stand.

You showed us that you are happy – no, eager – to invest in your Amigas, and the trade is already responding by making even larger financial commitments to even longer-term Amiga projects. The companies that matter now have an unshakable confidence in the future because you have shown that you have confidence. There are certain US companies who say that the European market, where in the past 85% of all Amiga sales were made, is lost and that the "untapped" US market is the future. Do me a favour, will you? Before you go to bed tonight, get down on your knees and pray that none of these flag-waving, short-sighted companies end up with a stake in what is still the best personal computer that's ever been built.

The opinions expressed in The Jeff Walker Column are for once also those of Amiga Format

Emerald Creative Technology

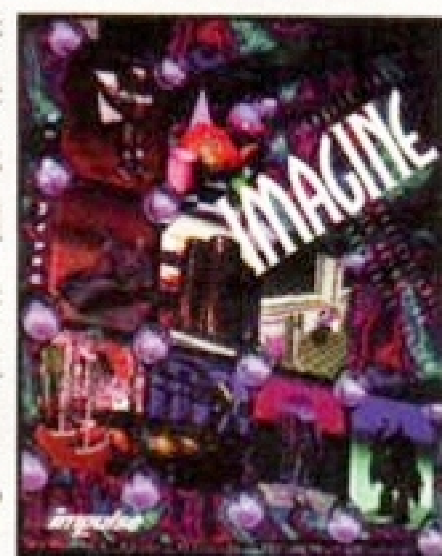


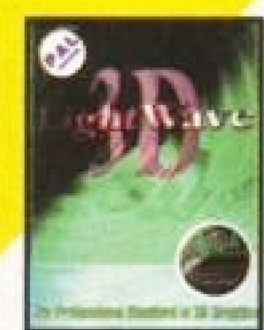
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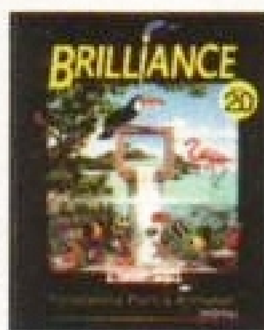
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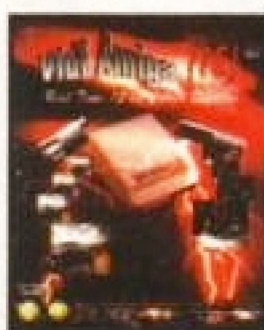




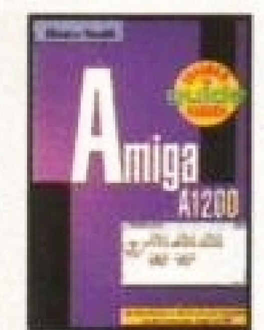
Lightwave £449.95



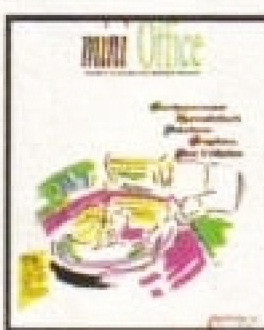
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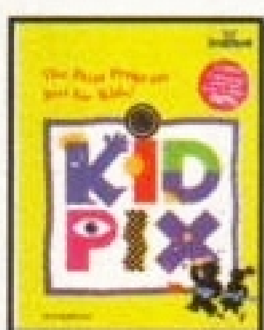
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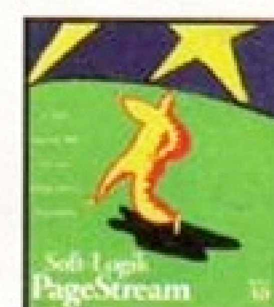
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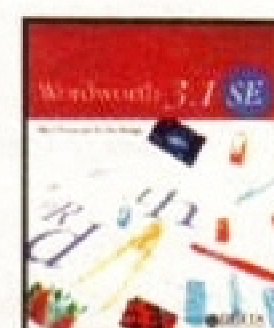
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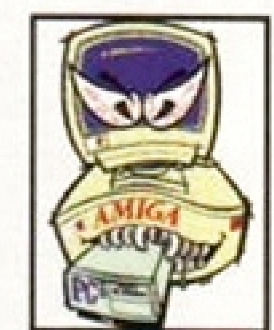
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Don't miss new-look AMIGA SHOPPER

Next month sees some big improvements to our sister magazine, *Amiga Shopper*. The March issue, on sale Tuesday, February 7, will be the first to feature two Coverdisks, packed with all manner of wonderful serious Amiga stuff – complete programs (worth up to £100 in some cases!), invaluable utilities and exclusive upgrades to existing packages.

Inside there's the same essential mix of reviews, tutorials and advice, but there's a whole new section dedicated to helping serious Amiga users get the most out of the Coverdisks (both the ones on *Shopper* and *Amiga Format*). For instance, the new, redesigned issue has an in-depth feature on the *AF67 AMOS Professional* Coverdisk.

And to make room for all these wonderful new items, *Amiga Shopper* is increasing in size – the March issue will explode to around 124 pages! Every issue of *AS* will be thicker, with all of the pages printed in full-colour on glossy paper. The cost of the magazine will be rising to £3.95, but it will remain the best-value magazine for money for the serious Amiga user.

"*Shopper* will of course continue to be the only 100% serious Amiga magazine worth considering," said Future's Amiga Group Publisher, Steve Carey.

"But the addition of Coverdisks means we'll be able to provide much more interactive tutorials, as well as offering valuable, full-price programs."

The all-new, all-singing, all-dancing *Amiga Shopper* is on sale in all good newsagents (and a couple of ropey ones), from Tuesday, February 7. Demand is sure to be high, so reserve your copy now!

Power talks sense shocker!



"The latest issue of *Amiga Power* is currently something of an enigma. As I write, although we've got a fantastic demo of *Super Skidmarks*, and some great cows on wheels on the cover, the actual game hasn't turned up for review yet. Will it arrive in time? Or will we have to endanger our lives once again, working around the clock to fill those pages with something equally exciting?

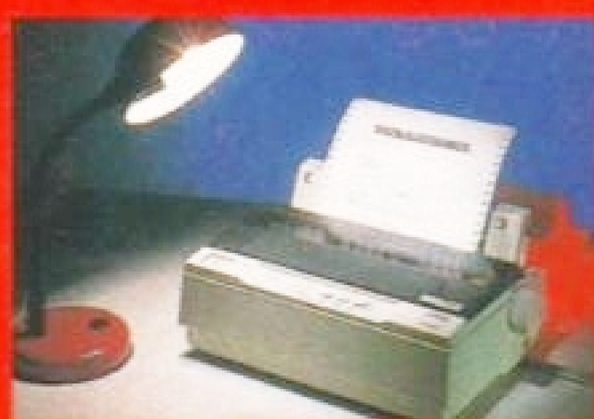
"Only by buying the new *Amiga Power* can you find out. What I do know, though, is that we've got lots of other reviews, a demo of *Shadow Fighter* (the best beat-em-up on the Amiga), a complete guide to The Strange World Of The Amiga, and part two of Cam's *Cannon Fodder 2* tips. *Amiga Power* – you'll hate it so much you'll want to die."

Jonathan Davies, Editor

EPSON LAUNCH ADVANCED 24-PIN PRINTER

Epson have released the new LQ-300 24-pin printer offering a whole host of advanced features which belie its £239 retail price.

The small LQ-300 is ideal for home desktops and can print at speeds of 240 characters per second at 12 characters per inch. It has a convertible push/pull tractor for precise handling of multi-part stationery, and with an optional continuous sheet feeder, 50 sheets of paper can be loaded for document or repeat printing. There's also a £40 upgrade which enables you to add colour to your work. For more details call Epson on 01442 61144.


The new 24-pin LQ-300 has a lot of features for £239.

New genlock


The Fusion genlock and *HT-100* package is aimed at budget users.

Amitek's new Fusion genlock is now available through Silica and comes with a free copy of Scala's *HT-100* video titling package.

The £99 genlock is aimed at the beginner wanting to get into desktop video on a limited budget. The Fusion is a composite genlock, and is powered by the Amiga, negating the need for an external power supply. Controls include a single vertical fader plus three settings for Picture Only, Graphics Only and Overlay. The inclusion of Scala's *HT-100* means that Amiga owners with access to a pair of video recorders can get to grips with home editing, titling, adding effects, overlaying captions or animations to videos. Anyone wanting to start down the rocky road to *Beadle's Hot Shots* can contact Silica on 0181 309 1111.

Lightwave courses

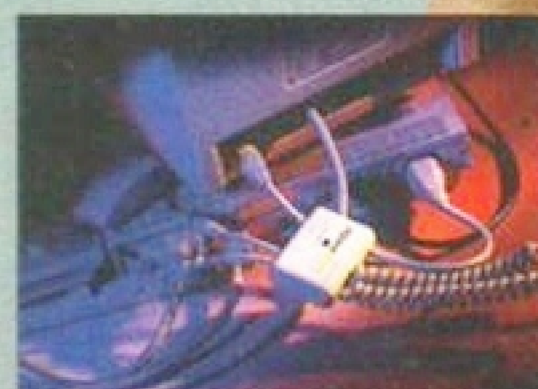
Premier Vision are launching a series of *Lightwave* seminars next month covering 3D modelling, animation and rendering with Newtek's *AF* Gold-rated package.

The day-long courses cost £50 and are aimed at beginners, experienced users and those who want to see what *Lightwave* is capable of before buying it. The seminars begin in February at the Premier Vision headquarters in Blackfriars Road, London. They are being run by Andy Morgan, a graphic designer and Amiga enthusiast. Call Andrew Bishop at Premier Vision for further details on 0171 721 7050.

SAFE AND SAVE

Gaascom have released PowaSave and LazaSave – two power saving devices aimed at reducing energy costs and heat emissions of printers and monitors and thus improving the lifespan of your hardware.

These electronic modules plug in between the parallel printer cable and power cable of the laser writer, or power cable and keyboard/mouse cables and the monitor. After a set amount of time, the modules completely turn off all power to the printer or monitor. The current goes back on when data is detected in the printer cable, and the monitor is powered up again when the keyboard or mouse is moved. Gaascom reckon their power savers help computer users comply with the new Health And Safety regulations (1992) and the Display Screen Directive from the EC. So if you want to make sure of a happy and safe working environment, call Gaascom on 01963 337788. The special launch price of PowaSave is £35.95 (plus £2.50 P&P), while LazaSave costs £159.95 (plus £2.50 P&P).


New from Gaascom PowaSave (above) and LazaSave.

niblets

MULTILAYER OVER HERE

Prime Software's compositing and layering tool, *MultiLayer*, is now being handled in the UK by Kaleidoscope Productions (01726 832220). For £129.95 *MultiLayer* provides up to 100 layers of digital compositing, all at 32-bit D1 quality. Compatible with *ADPro* or *ImageFX*, it features a wealth of tools, such as variable transparencies, adjustable dissolves plus full *ARexx* accessibility.

SAMPLE CD

Pure Technology (01745 332535) have released a new CD packed with samples for budding musicians. The Cosmos CD contains 77 minutes of digital and analogue samples and sound effects and costs £34.95.

MUSIC TO YOUR EARS

Blue Ribbon Soundworks' range of music programs is now to be handled in the UK by Premier Multimedia. You can get free pre-sales advice on Blue Ribbon's new packages by calling the Premier Line on 0181 332 6959.

PETRA PD

If you're looking for high quality PD software, and would like to help a worthy cause at the same time, why not talk to Petra Software? This non-profit-making Licenceware company has been set up to provide decent PD software in return for donations to the Somerset Cot Death support group. Contact Petra at Flat 5, Somerton House, Somerton, Somerset TA11 7PY.

Tim Smith Column

Here's a computer joke. Is the Pentium sticker found on many computers in these modern days really there for information, or is it a warning? Thank goodness it's a new year that's all I can say. Because I need a fresh start to cope with the piece of news from Intel regarding its flagship PC chip. It's going to take me a year to work out what Intel actually mean when they say that the bug in the Pentium chip will only occur once in every 27,000 years (or whichever other figure it came up with). Does this mean that the error could occur twice every 54,000 years? I would assume so. Because as far as I'm concerned this means that it can happen. Full-stop.

Well most of us have a feeling about our luck. Someone tells me that I've got a 50-50 shot of winning £100,000 and I think: "Great, there's a 50 per cent chance of not winning". If someone explains that there's a 10,000-1 chance of me having a piano dropped on my head on a Tuesday, then bingo! I don't go out on Tuesdays. It's subjective...

So the notion that a bug has occurred in one of the prime pieces of hardware to have been thrown at us from every media source you can think of is not really as bad as all that, honestly, doesn't really sit that well. Like I said, it's subjective. Bear with me.

Because I'm biased about this anyway, I'd like to make an analogy. What, for example would happen if Boeing were to bring out a passenger aircraft whose artificial horizon only went squiffy once every 27,000 years? Would you get on it? Would anyone? I believe that they would and this would be a good thing. I am also sure that OJ Simpson will get a fair trial and that the Royal Family's problems affect my everyday life. And what does all this mean to the Amiga and its many ardent fans?

Well first of all, it means that this time, people can see that what everybody had taken as being a given Good Thing is in fact a Less Than Good Thing. In fact it's a Faulty Thing. People might start to think for a moment. And they might realise that, for the average computer user, what you need is a cheap, reliable, expandable computer. Secondly, it gives Amiga users one more reason to feel a bit bloody smug.

OK, so maybe Commodore have screwed up once or twice on their marketing, and on the fact that they underestimated the reality that 'a games' machine could do far more than the marketeers ever expected — the guys who put the thing together were always aware that the architecture and software were more versatile than simple sprite throwers — the Amiga has always done its basic job. And that is to be a computer.

The Amiga can, has, and will continue to live without the hype and the marketing budgets that claim that a £2,000 PC is the best computer ever... well for three years by which time your £2,000 has miraculously turned into £899.

The A500 and A1200 have provided the people who use them (many of them because they can't afford the prices charged for PCs or for the 'people's computer' the Mac) with more than enough power and more than enough expandability to create, equate and play. Of course I could be over-reacting to all this. Who really wants reliable computing when the Pentium not only brings you computing power but also a free gamble every time you use it?

Tim Smith can be contacted on tsmithhb@cix.compulink.co.uk and timbo@gashead.demon.co.uk

The opinions expressed in The Tim Smith Column are not necessarily those of Amiga Format

Amiga Format games news

Steve Bradley rounds up all of the latest news from the wide and wonderful world of Amiga games.

Too much Chaos

Remember *The Chaos Engine*? The Bitmap Brothers' fabulous shoot-em-up remains an office favourite some two years after its release and Renegade are set to release a sequel, interestingly titled *The Chaos Engine 2*.

Renegade claim that it will be totally different – instead of the pally, two player help-each-other-out tactic of its predecessor, you will be in direct competition with another human or CPU player. The two-player mode will feature a split screen and there is a "fully scored soundtrack using a conditional music system", which we shall earnestly listen to upon the game's release. And loudly we shout about our forthcoming *The Chaos Engine 2* demo, probably on the April issue.

The Chaos Engine 2: more than just a sequel according to Renegade.

Team 17 talk

Team 17 remain one of the most active supporters of Amiga games and three more are ready to roll. *All Terrain Racing* you should know all about. What do you mean you missed last month's demo? It's a top-view down racing game with a simultaneous two-player mode and we'll have a full review next month. If it's finished.

Worms is described by Team 17 PR fellow Alan Bunker as, "a cross between *Lemmings* and *Cannon Fodder*". He always did talk a good game. The action takes place over a multi-directional scrolling landscape where up to four platoons of four worms do battle using a variety of weapons. A multi-player option allows up to 16 people to play at once. It sounds fascinating, but you'll have to wait till April before you can play it.

Pussies Galore is a platformer with four worlds and missions galore. A cat called Evil Eric has released a record which has put the world's kittens under a spell, and only Boris the cat can save them. Sounds far fetched but Team 17 promise a humorous platformer with a difference. But then they would, wouldn't they? Due in March.

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Happy Daze

Impressions and Daze Marketing, strategy brothers-in-arms, are releasing *High Seas Trader* and *Front Lines* in February.

High Seas Trader is a first-person, captain-of-your-own-ship affair with lots of sailing, trading and it apparently features a: "highly intuitive and responsive interface". The idea is to pillage the seas, build a fleet of ships and generally increase your wealth. A1200 only.

Front Lines is a tactical, turn-based wargame set in Pearl Harbour, not in 1941, but some 99 years later in 2040. A group of fiendish renegades are intent on taking over the world, with pugnacious tactics the order of the day. The gameplayer must quell this tide of evil. There are 18 types of futuristic weaponry, multiple scenarios, and each turn is reckoned to take five minutes. Due out in February, *Front Lines* is for A1200s and 1Mb machines.

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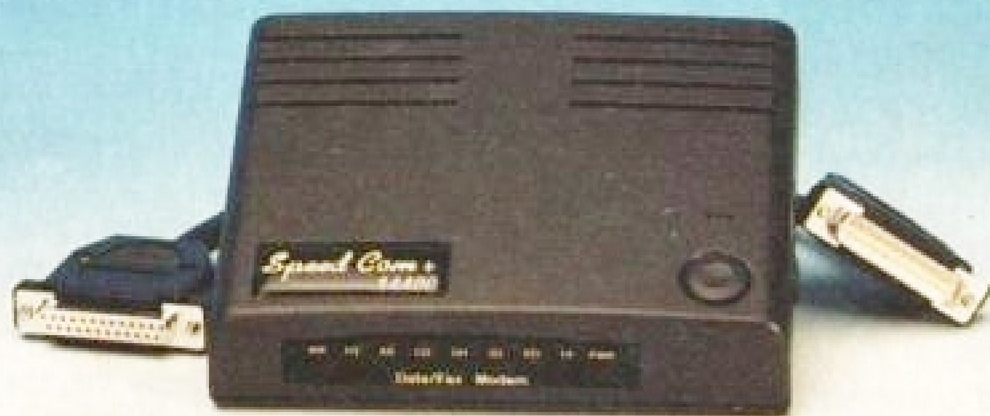
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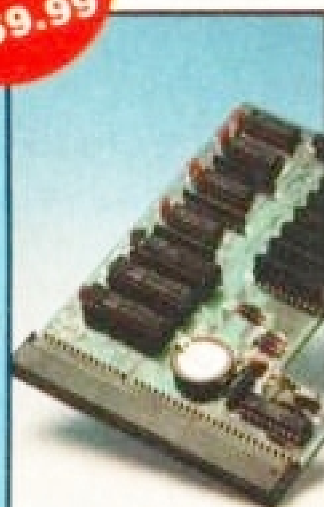
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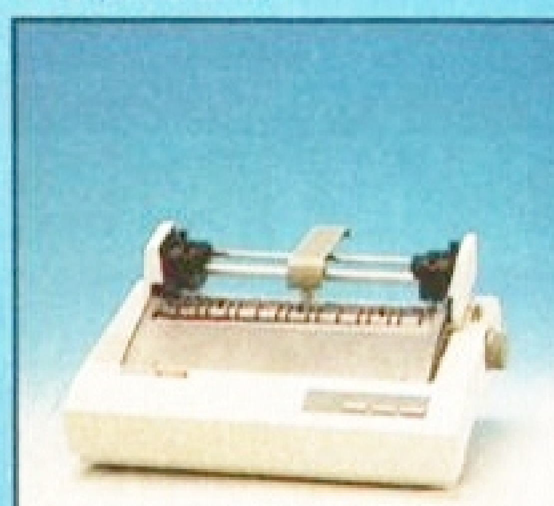
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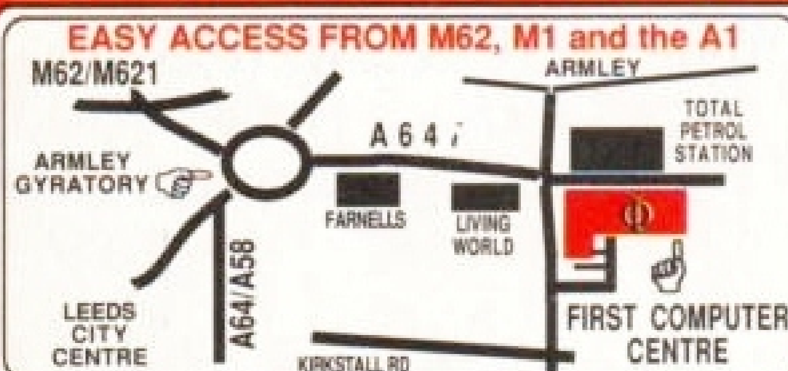
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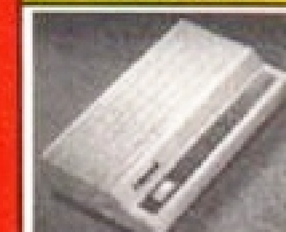
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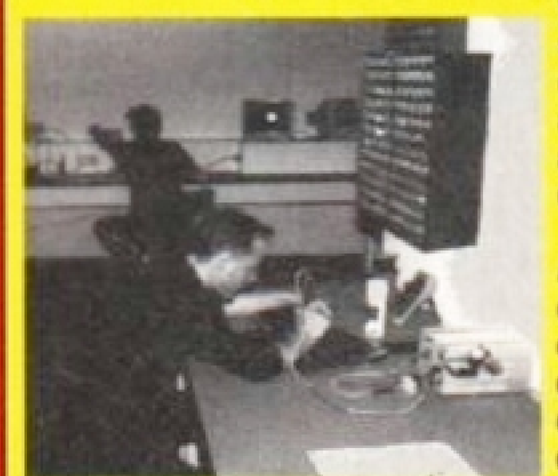
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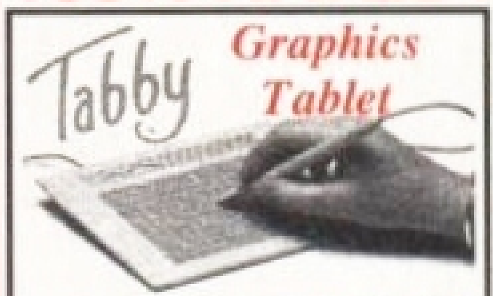
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Get wired

Is the whole world getting on line? Richard Baguley investigates what awaits you and your Amiga in the place they call Cyberspace.

Somewhere out there in the strange world that some people refer to as Cyberspace, weird things are going on. In California, a PD author is uploading the latest version of his program to an Internet site. Within a few hours, it will be transmitted to similar sites around the world for millions of Amiga owners to get hold of.

In Ireland, an Amiga owner is answering a technical query posted by another Amiga user in America a couple of hours ago. In various places around the world, a group of Amiga owners are talking about a new graphics card that one of them has bought. They are talking in real time, despite the fact that they are many thousand of miles apart.



The daily satellite weather map from the Metnet Bulletin Board. You can download it and study the weather at your leisure.

In Germany, somebody laughs out loud at the latest proposal on how to destroy the world that somebody has posted to a Usenet Newsgroup. In Bath, the editor of an Amiga magazine reads the comments of some of his readers in a Fidonet Echo and replies to them.

Does this sound like some weird science fiction novel? Something dreamed up by a crazy Californian visionary? Well, it may sound unreal, but all of these examples are true. Every one of the people mentioned is a traveller on the information superhighway.

There has been, in recent months, an unprecedented amount of hype about how Comms and the Internet in particular is going to change our lives. TV programs have talked about how it could revolutionise the way we communicate with each other, with information on an immense number of subjects available at the touch of a button. So what will this actually mean to you? As an Amiga user, you are already on the cutting edge of technology. In fact, Amiga owners have been one of the first groups to get seriously into the Comms revolution. All around the world, thousands of Amiga owners are communicating over vast distances and exchanging information and programs. This is the first part of the Comms revolution – E-mail.

Imagine writing a letter without paper. That's what E-mail is about. Instead of printing it out, sticking it in an envelope and nipping down to the post office, you type in your message, call up a local BBS or E-mail server and your message is sent winging its way across the globe.

Although there is no paper involved, it works in a similar way to a normal letter. At the start of the message is an address, and the computers use this to work out where to send the letter. For instance, to send messages to this magazine on the Internet, you would use the E-mail address amformat@futurenet.co.uk. This address identifies who the message is going to, and any computer on the Internet can look at this address and work out where to send the message. It's exactly the same as

Continued overleaf ➡

GETTING STARTED

To get into Comms, you need three things: an Amiga, a modem and a telephone line. I'll assume you already have the first and the last, but the modem is often a source of confusion.

A modem (short for modulator-demodulator) is a device which takes the digital information (bits and bytes, a series of electrical pulses) which your Amiga sends out and transforms into an analogue form. If you pick up the phone when a modem is using the line, you'll hear a rather unpleasant screeching noise, which is the analogue signal being sent out by the modem.

This is sent down the telephone line and a modem at the other end takes this hideous noise and turns it back into digital form, which is then sent to another computer. This process works in both directions, so data can be sent and received by your Amiga. Because the information is digital, it could be anything from a PD program to a sound sample of a cow going Moo.

Many different types of modem are available, but the important thing to bear in mind is how fast the modem can transmit and receive data. In order to ensure that the different types of modem can talk to each other properly, several standards have been set up, which cover how the data is sent between the modems. These are the V standards. As the technology of modems has moved on, newer modems which can send data faster have been designed. To keep up with this, new standards appear every now and then. The latest (and fastest) standard is V.34 (also known as V-Fast).

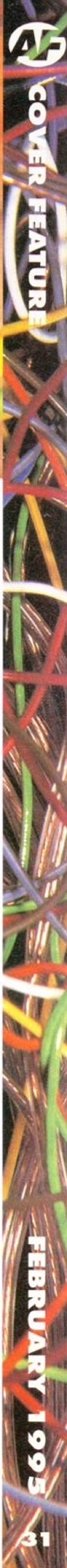
Usually, the faster the modem the more expensive it is. However, a more expensive modem saves on phone bills, so it's a question of working out what sort of use you are likely to make of your modem before deciding whether to go for economy or speed.

For instance, you could probably pick up a cheap modem for as little as £40, but this would be very slow and would probably take around 25 minutes to download a 300K file, which would cost you approximately £1.25 if you were calling long distance.

A new V-Fast modem would cost you over £300, but it would download the same file in around 2 minutes, costing you about 15p in phone calls. As you can see, an expensive modem can save you a lot in phone bills if you regularly call long distance and download large files.

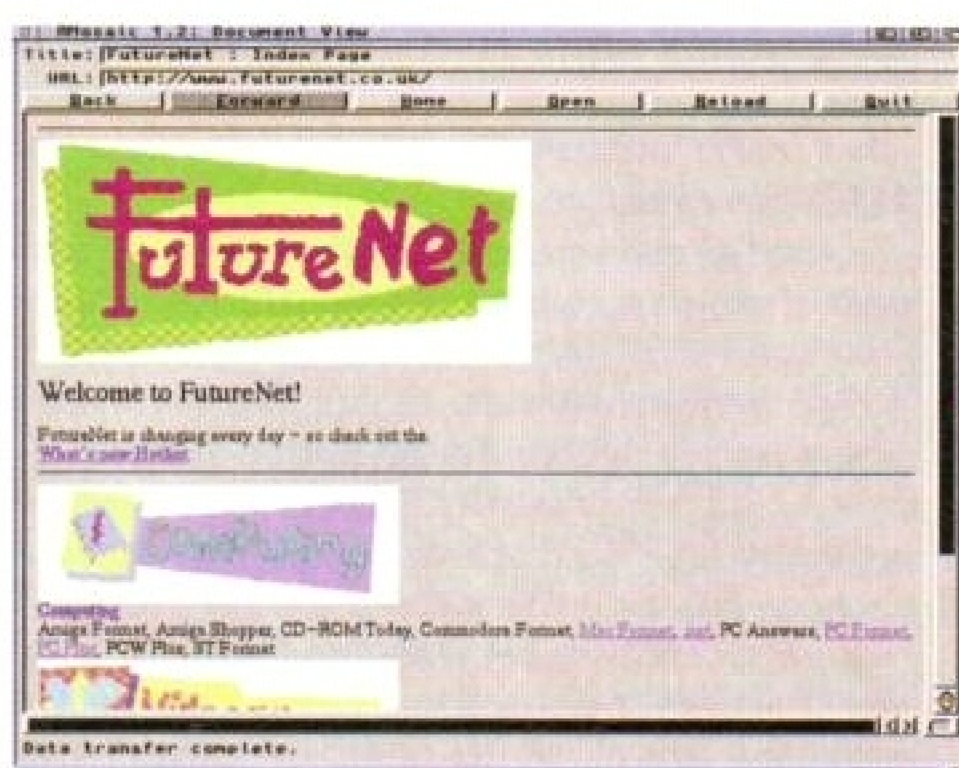


A V.34 modem like the X-Link costs you a few quid extra, but it could save you a lot in phone bills.

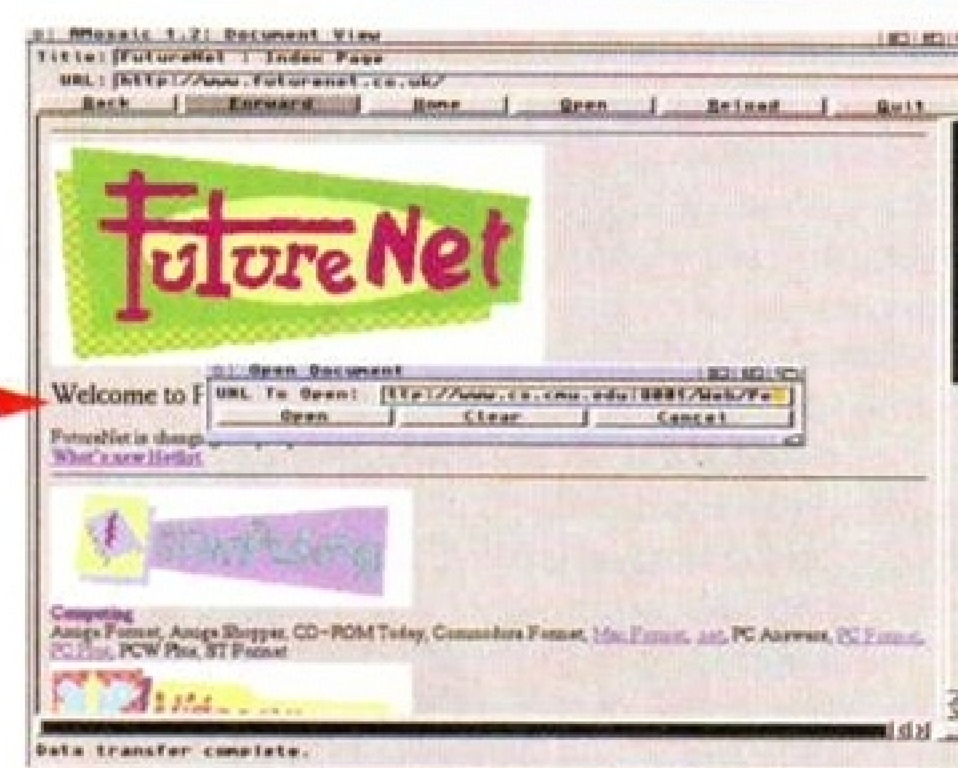


A TYPICAL INTERNET WORLD WIDE WEB SESSION

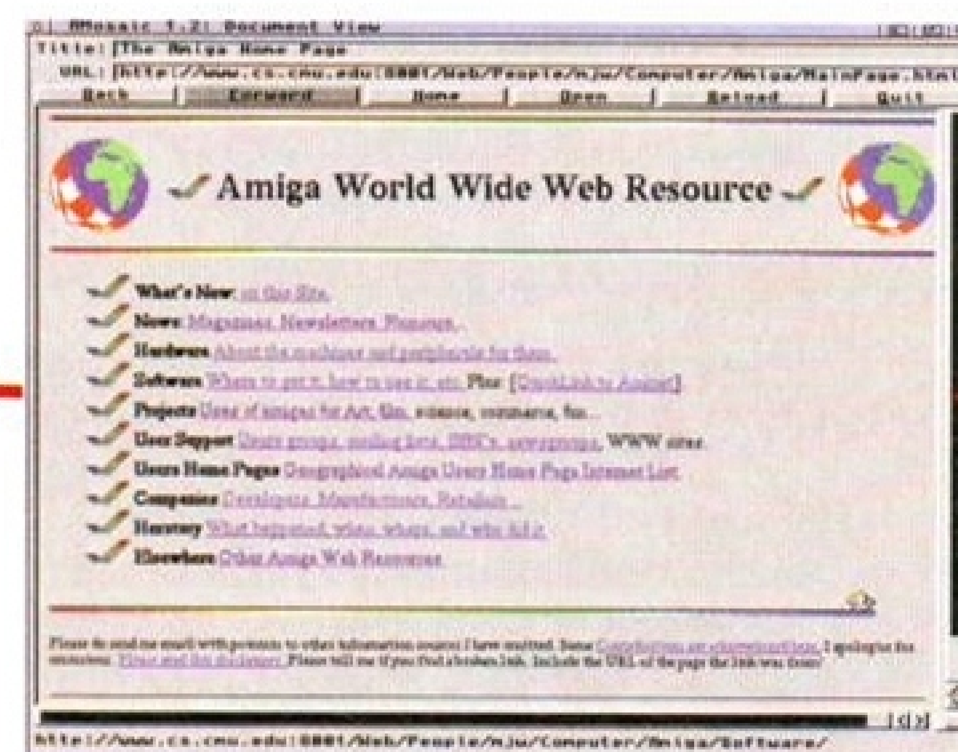
Connecting to the Internet World Wide Web is similar to connecting to a BBS, except that you can use the mouse to choose where you go. If a word or image is highlighted, clicking on it takes you to another World Wide Web page. Let's see what's out there.



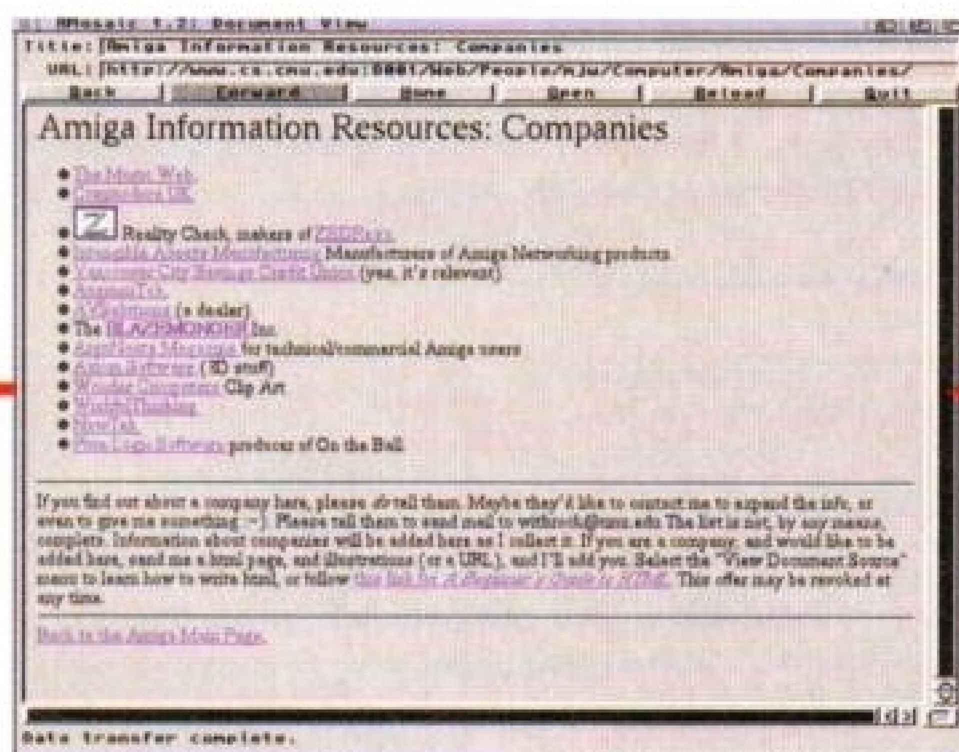
I've set up the software, connected to my Internet server and kicked off the software. My set-up is configured to take me straight to Future Publishing's own WWW site.



But we don't want to look at that now. Let's go to the Amiga Home page, set up by Amiga enthusiast Michael Witbrock.



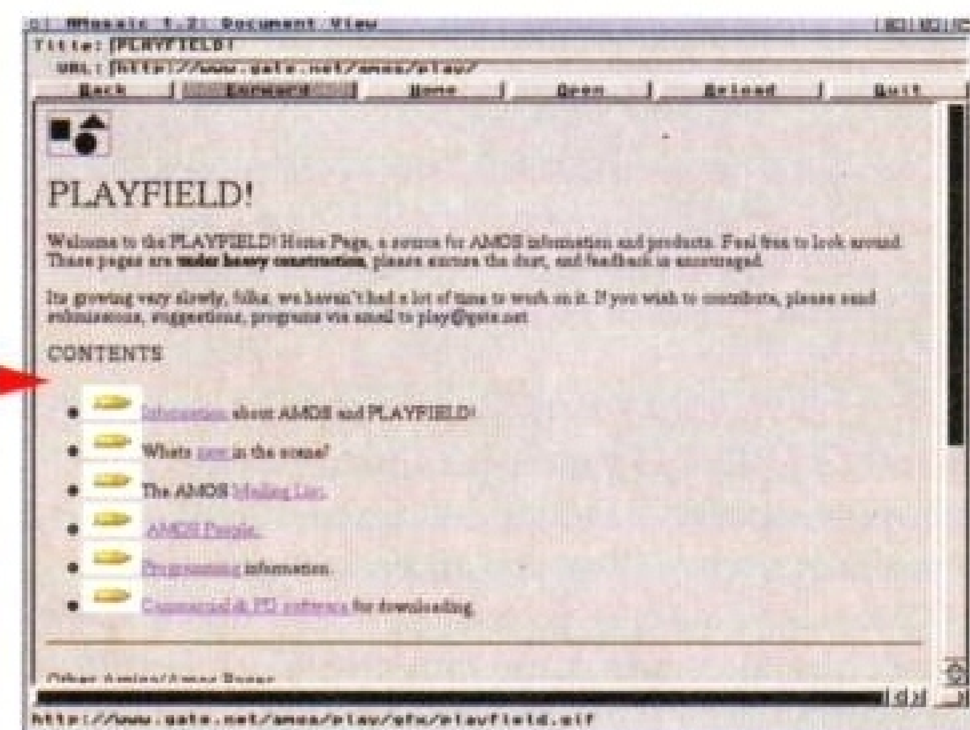
Clicking on any of the blue bits of text would take us to the appropriate page. I wonder what Amiga companies are on the Internet?



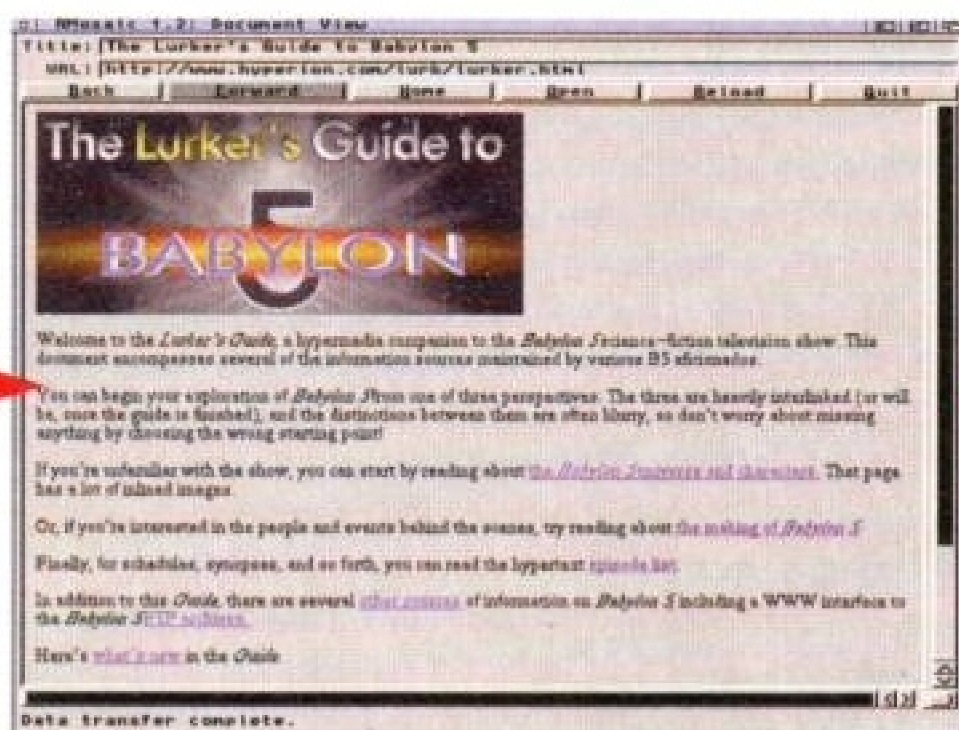
Here we are in the Companies section.



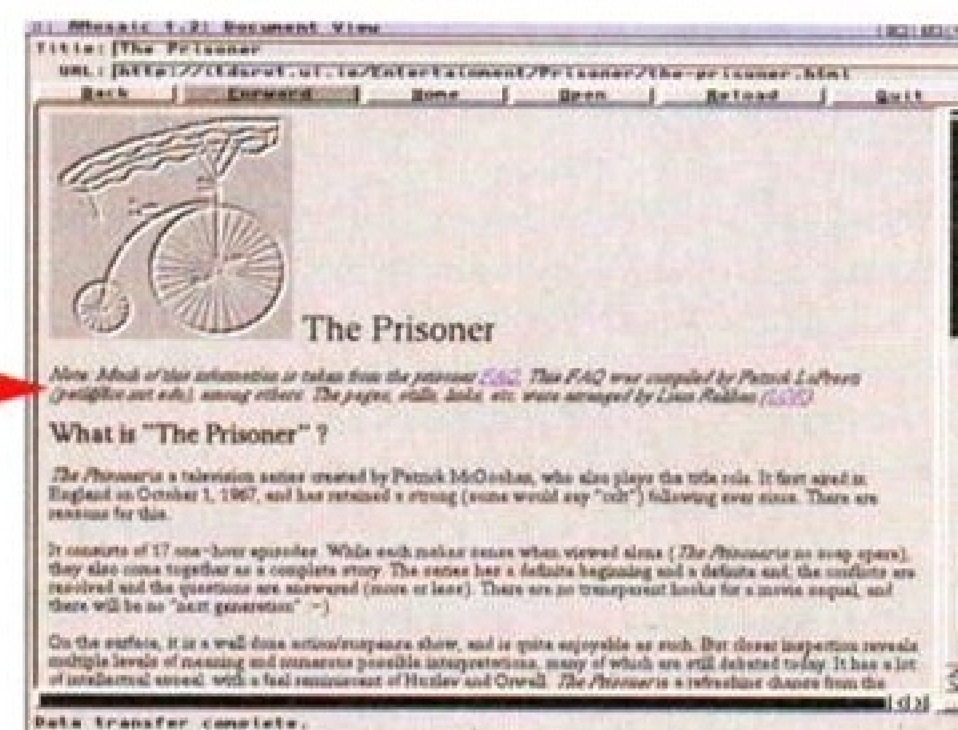
And this is what one of the companies has got to say for themselves.



There are also links to various other pages, such as the Playfield *AMOS* pages.



But it's not all computer stuff. I'm a great fan of the TV program *Babylon 5*, so let's check out its World Wide Web pages.



Aha! A *Prisoner* WWW page! 'I am not a number, I am a free man!'.

⬅ writing *Amiga Format*, 30 Monmouth St, Bath, Avon on the front of an envelope.

When you call a BBS or set up an Internet account, you are given your own address, and anybody can use this to send a message to you. But having an E-mail address is no use if you can't talk to a group of people at once. This is where the second part of Comms comes in: conferences. On every type of E-mail service, there are a series of conferences (called Newsgroups on the Internet or echoes on Fidonet) on an absolutely huge range of subjects.

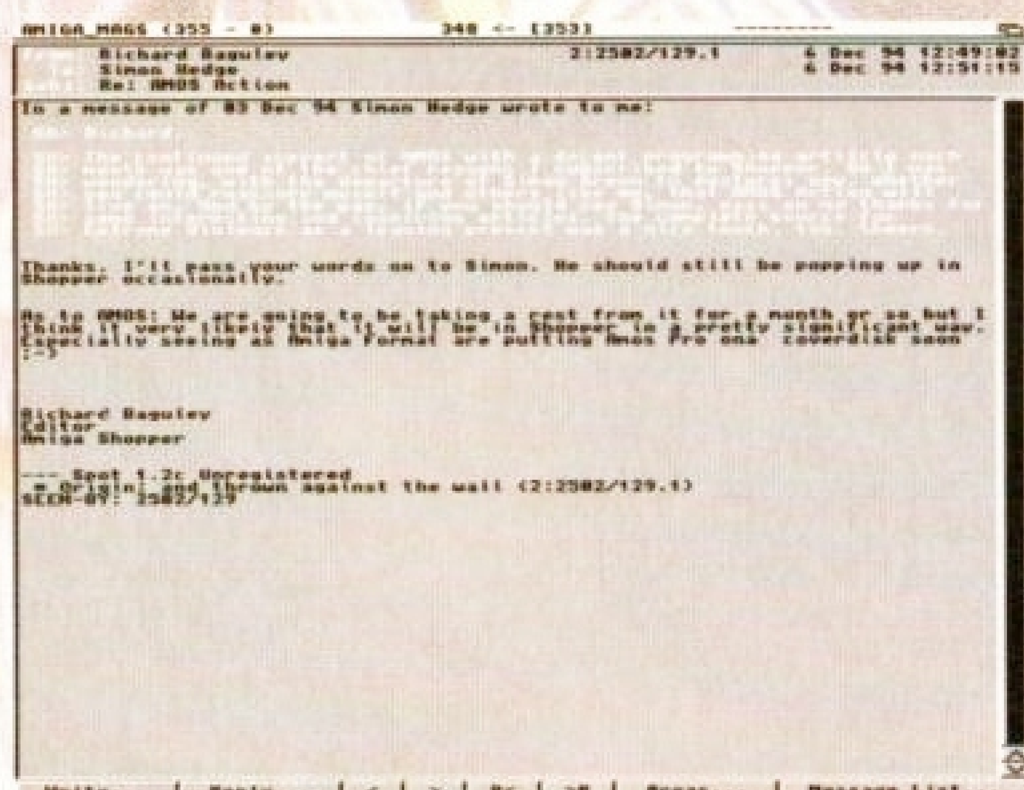
And these subjects aren't limited to computers – most services carry conferences on everything from astronomy to zoology. If you write a message in one of the conferences, it is then spread to all of the other systems which participate.

So, if you have a programming query, you could put a message in one of the programming conferences, and within a few days people all over the world could potentially be reading your thoughts and opinions. They could then send helpful (or unhelpful) replies by the same route, which would eventually find their way back to you. However, everybody else who reads that conference could also read the message and the reply, so you could be helping any number of people if it's a common problem.

These conferences are more than just problem-solving forums. Many are based around discussions on issues of the day, so you could easily find yourself discussing why it's a bad idea to put VAT on fuel bills with a group of people that you have never met and are never likely to meet.

The third thing which could make you a certified Comms freak is files. Imagine having the entire contents of all the world's PD libraries only a phone call away. Instead of having to call a PD company and wait several days for the disks to arrive,

THE FIDONET EXPERIENCE



One of the great strengths of Fidonet is that you can use it to easily and cheaply send messages around the world.



This is Tom Jennings, the man who started off the phenomenon which is Fidonet.

Way back in 1984, a man named Tom Jennings had an idea. He was running a successful Bulletin Board in California, but he was frustrated that the messages that his users typed in would go no further than his own BBS. So he got together with a neighbouring BBS and developed a way for both systems to exchange mail. Each night, one BBS would call the other and send all of the messages which had been entered that day.

This meant that a user could type in a message on one BBS, and users of the other would be able to read and reply to it on the other. Within a few months, numerous other BBS joined in, and within a year, several hundred BBS all over America were exchanging messages. Soon, this network of BBS spread around the world and today there are somewhere in the region of 30,000 Bulletin Boards worldwide on the Fidonet network. Incidentally, Jennings' brainchild is allegedly called Fidonet because he named it after his dog.

It works in a very simple way. Once a day, every BBS in the network calls another BBS and sends the messages which users have typed in. At the same time, the BBS receives messages which have been typed on other BBS. Some of the systems act as hubs, or central points where a number of BBS call for their messages. Every night, one of these hubs calls another and sends a single file containing all of the messages. Through this process a message typed on one BBS can spread around the world within a few days. Because each BBS only has to call one other, there is no central computer, and the phone bills which result are spread around the various different BBS in the network.

The Fidonet network carries a series of echoes, each of which is related to a specific subject. For instance, the echo called Amiga_UK is designed for Amiga owners in the UK. Amiga_Mags is an echo where people discuss Amiga magazines, including, of course, this exceptionally fine example of one. There are several hundred echoes on subjects as diverse as cookery, ancient history and politics. In fact, several new networks have recently sprung up, including a rather interesting one called AmigaNet, which is dedicated entirely to the Amiga. Ask your local Sysop if he or she carries it or if they know of a local BBS which does.

Fidonet certainly isn't perfect, but it is a relatively simple and extremely friendly network. Most BBS are run by people who are more than happy to help new users, so you can always ask for help if you aren't sure. If you are a newcomer to Comms, a local BBS which is a member of Fidonet is an excellent place to start.

FLAVOUR OF THE MONTH: THE INTERNET

I would be surprised if there is anybody in the known universe who has not heard of the Internet. Sometimes referred to as the information superhighway, this global network of computers has recently been the subject of a media feeding frenzy. Even *News At Ten* has had a few stories about how this network is going to change the entire nature of human existence.

The origins of the Internet go way back to the late Sixties, the US Department Of Defence decided they wanted to set up their own network, which should be capable of surviving minor problems such as a nuclear attack. The resulting network (DARPANet) quickly grew, and American universities and colleges were included.

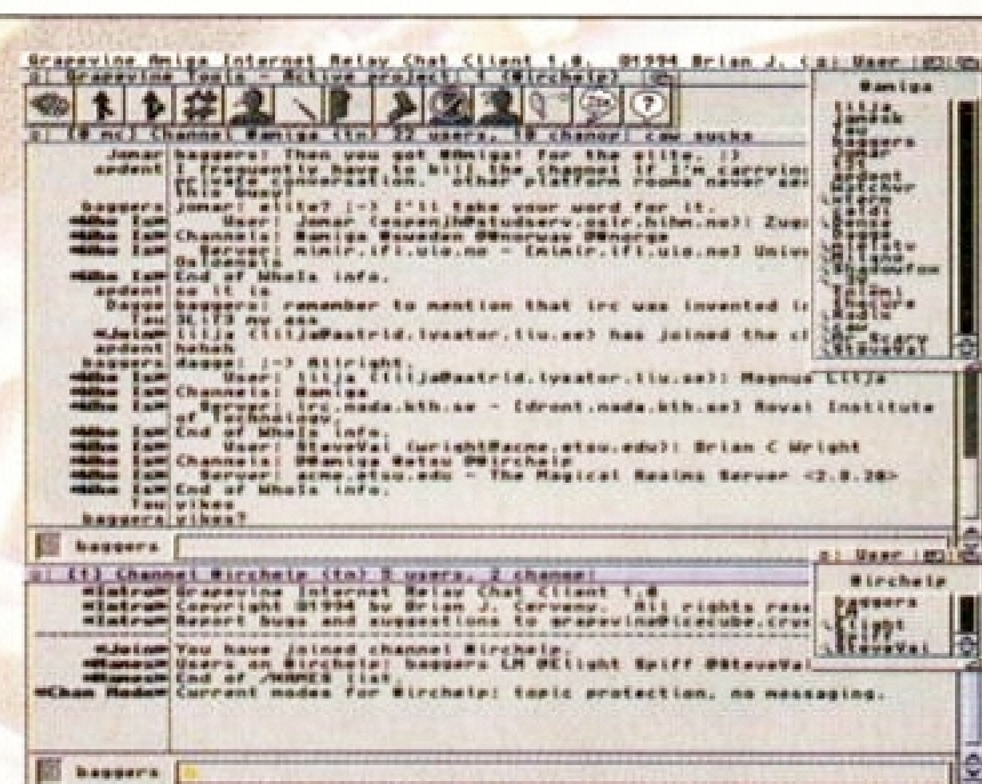
In the mid Seventies, the Defence Department decided to build another network for themselves, so they handed over the old one to the universities and colleges. This quickly incorporated several new networks and became known as the Internet.

This is now the biggest network ever, with something in the region of 16 million people around the world with access to it. There is a vast amount of stuff on it, ranging from information on the history of the abacus to discussion groups on zoology.

Many universities have placed the information on their database on line, so if you need information, you can probably find it somewhere. Many companies are also beginning to realise the potential of the Internet. For instance, Paramount recently set up a site where you can download images and sound samples from the latest *Star Trek* film. There are also a number of places on the Internet which hold several gigabytes of Amiga PD and Shareware, all of which can be easily downloaded.

However, there is a price to pay. Getting connected to the Internet is not simply a question of dialling another computer with your modem. While connecting to a local BBS is free (except for the phone bill) you have to pay access charges to get on to the Internet. The only possible exception to this is students, because many colleges give them some form of Internet access. Several of the commercial E-mail services offer different levels of Internet access which include the ability to send and receive messages from Internet users around the globe.

There are several companies which offer a full Internet connection, but only a few offer support for Amiga users. To get fully connected to the Internet, you also need some software to enable your Amiga to talk to the other computers which form the Internet. This requires that every computer sends data in a certain form, called the Transport Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP). Software to do this on the Amiga is easily available, thanks to some nice chaps at a Finnish university. They have produced *AmiTCP*, which allows any Amiga running Workbench 2 to access the Internet. This software should be available from any good BBS or PD library.



One of the attractions of the Internet is the IRC (Internet Relay Chat), which offers the chance to chat in real time to Amiga users around the globe.

you could have the latest PD and Shareware programs on your Amiga in a few minutes.

All you need to do is to call up your local BBS or Internet site, tell it which file you want and it is transferred on to your machine. Not only this, but many PD authors upload their stuff themselves, so you can always get hold of the latest version of a program. This is especially important if you want to keep up to date in the never-ending war against viruses, because you can always get hold of the latest virus checker.

But it's not just a question of getting hold of PD programs. Many universities and other educational establishments are also on line, so you can raid their archives for books, clip art or any number of other things. There are also a number of tools which enable you to search for files by specific key words, so you don't have to wade through epic lists of filenames. It's like having several gigabytes worth of disk space on your machine.

Have I convinced you yet? Well, it seems that many people have already been convinced, because somewhere in the region of 18 million people now have access to the Internet, and many thousands of people regularly call BBS. Can you afford to be left behind?

If you are a newcomer to Comms, one of the first things you need to do is find a local Bulletin Board System (BBS) to call. There are several hundred BBS around the country, and many of these are run on Amigas or have sections dedicated to Amiga users.

Most Bulletin Boards are run by people in their spare time, although they are far from being amateur affairs. The people who run them (who are referred to as System Operators or Sysops) are invariably very dedicated people who give up large amounts of their own time to provide a service for others. At the risk of sounding moralistic, this is a fact well worth remembering when you call a BBS.

Most BBS are computers linked to a single phone line. Many have phone lines dedicated to the BBS, but some share the telephone with other occupants of the house, so don't forget to check if the BBS only runs at certain times before you dial, because there are few thing more irritating in life than having a modem squealing at you when you've just got out of bed to answer the phone.

Although we don't have the space for a comprehensive list of BBS telephone numbers, here are a few which you may find useful. All of these run 24 hour services. If you can't find one in your local area, most of these also enable you to search through a list of BBS by dialling code, so you should be able to find one which is only a local call away.

Metnet Triangle
01482 473781/01482 442251
One of the most colourful Bulletin Boards in the country, Metnet is also one of the best. And it just so happens that it's also the official *Amiga Format* BBS, so you can send us all your messages, letters and questions on it.

Aspects
0161 792 0260
A very well respected Bulletin Board which caters for all types of machines. Aspects carries a particularly wide and diverse range of echoes on many subjects and is thoroughly recommended.

01 for Amiga
0171 377 1358
One of the oldest-established BBS in the country, this Amiga-only BBS has a vast amount of software on-line and an immense range of echoes.

```
NET_2_2502_129 (32 - 0)                  [23]          -U------
From: Mick Simcock                       2:443/13.33        2 Nov 94 15:39:21
  To: Amiga Shopper                      2:2502/129.1       7 Nov 94 16:35:47
Subj: Grabbed by the hand of god comp.

GRABBED BY THE HAND OF GOD COMPETITION

1. True or False - The Pro-Grab 24RT needs a perfect still-frame video to
grab from.

FALSE

2. True or False - The Pro-Grab 24RT can read teletext pages.

TRUE

3. Which town is named after the Editor of this magazine?

There are 2; Bagley, Shropshire
             Bagley, Somerset


Mick Simcock
16 Nottingham Rd
Holywood
Belfast
BT18 9RG
N. IRELAND

Write...  Reply...  <  >  R<  >R  Areas...  Message List...
```

Fancy entering competitions in *Amiga Format*? We are happy to accept entries by E-mail.

COMMERCIAL SERVICES: COSTING THE EARTH?

Many people don't see the point of commercial services such as CiX (Compulink Information eXchange) or Compuserve. After all, their argument goes, if you can get at all of this stuff free through your local BBS, why should you bother with services which cost money?

The answer to this is very simple. Although many BBS are run in a very professional manner, the sysop doesn't make any money out of them, so he (or she) can't afford to spend lots of money on expensive equipment. A commercial service, however, can and does do this. For instance, CiX has somewhere in the region of 50 gigabytes of disk space, and most of the best Amiga Public Domain and Shareware programs find their way there eventually. What Sysop could afford that much disk space?

There are a variety of commercial services of this type. The biggest one in the UK is CiX (Voice: 0181 390 8446, modem: 0181 390 1244), which has several thousand users. There is a £25 setting up fee for a new account, but the charges are a very reasonable £2.40 per hour (off peak). The other big system in the UK is Compuserve (Voice: 0800 289378), which began life in America. Although Compuserve now has a UK base, it is still heavily biased towards the US, with the billing being in dollars. In off peak times, you should expect to pay around $7.70 per hour (around £4). As well as all sorts of computer stuff, Compuserve offers such delights as on-line shopping and a very large travel database.

A newcomer to this scene is Rupert Murdoch's Delphi service (Voice: 0171 757 7150). Once again this has a heavy bias towards all things American, but at least your bills aren't determined by the exchange rate. There is a strong Amiga presence on Delphi on-line and it boasts a wide selection of other delights such as the opportunity to chat live with Net guru Dave Winder. There are too many billing options to detail here, so call Delphi for more details.

Although all commercial services cost you money, it needn't be an overly expensive business. For instance, if you use an off-line reader (a program which automatically calls the service, collects together all your messages and allows you to read them without having to stay on the phone), you could easily keep the cost down. Another reason why commercial services are worth investigating is that they are usually the haunt of the real hard core of Amiga users. Post a technical query on a service such as CiX and you are likely to have an answer (or even several answers) within minutes or hours as opposed to the days that Fidonet can take.

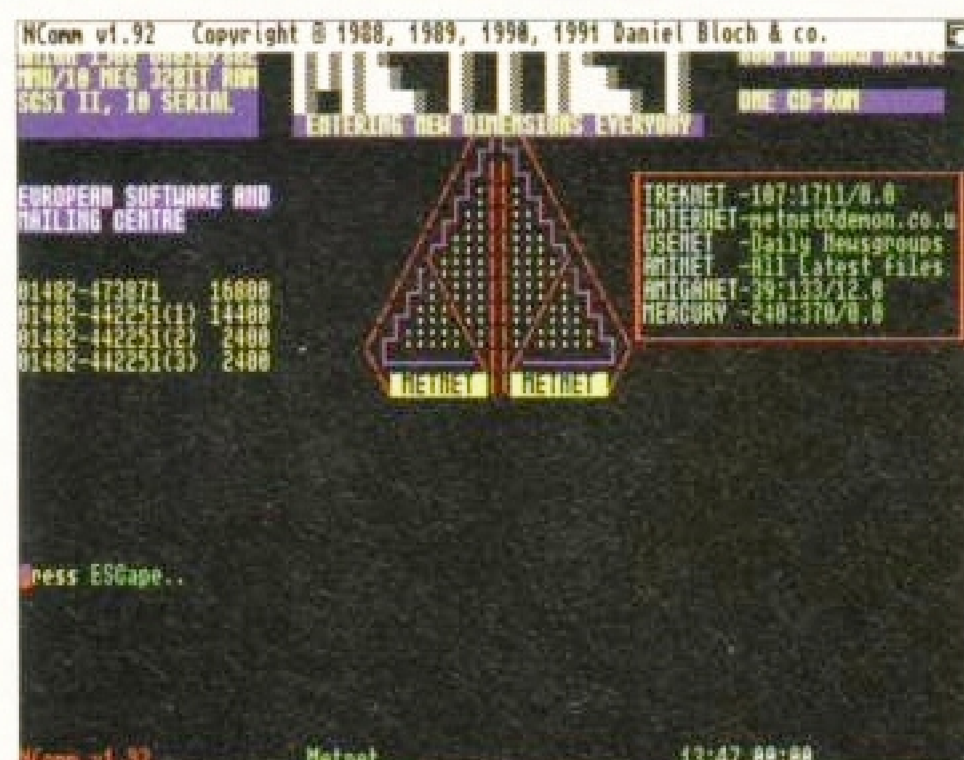
And there's more to it than talking about computers. Most commercial services will have areas on any number of subjects, ranging from anatomy to hill walking via philosophy. CiX, for instance, had a grand total of 2,576 conferences at the time of going to press. And if you can't find one about your pet subject, you can just go ahead and create your own.

The Amiga has two excellent off-line readers for the CiX service, including *Lucy* by Toby Simpson.

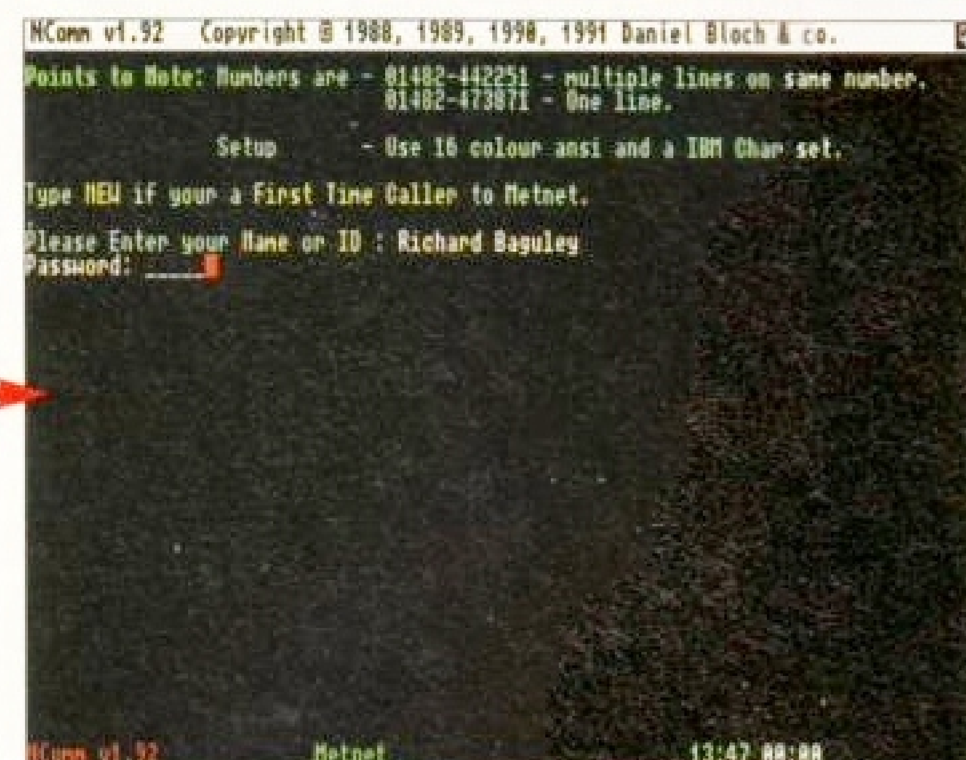
Continued overleaf ➡

A TYPICAL BBS SESSION

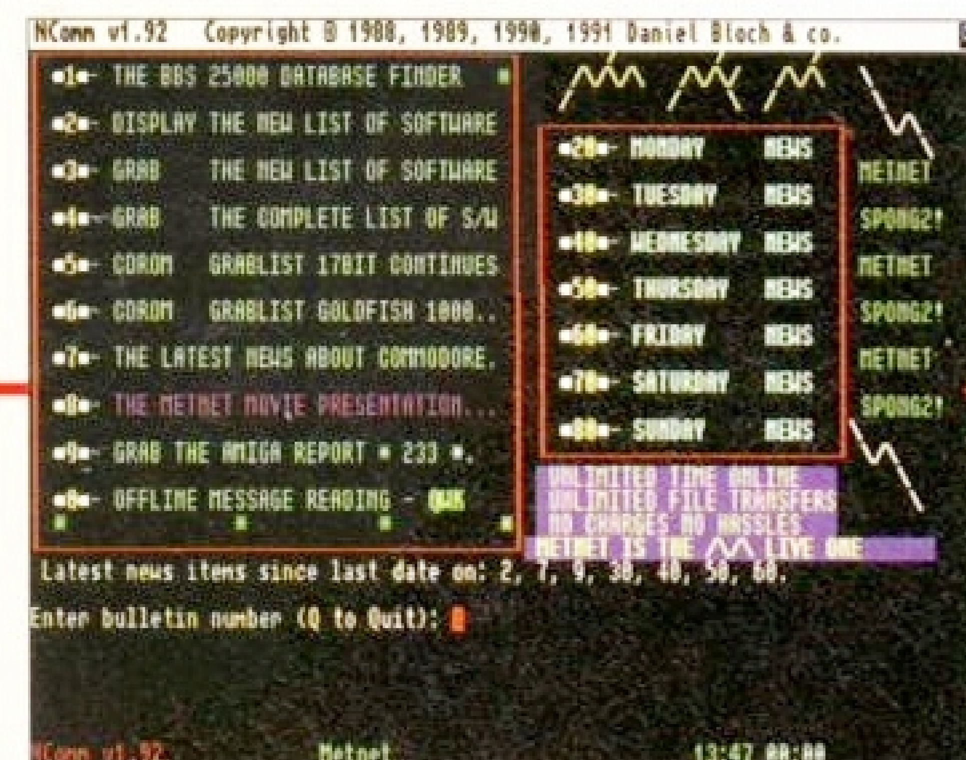
These images show the sort of thing you would find on a typical BBS. You should not take them as being the sort of thing you would find on every BBS, because every one is different. For this feature, we have used the Metnet Bulletin Board in sunny Hull as an example. Coincidentally, this BBS is also the official BBS for *Amiga Format*. Metnet is on 01482 473871 or 01482 442251.



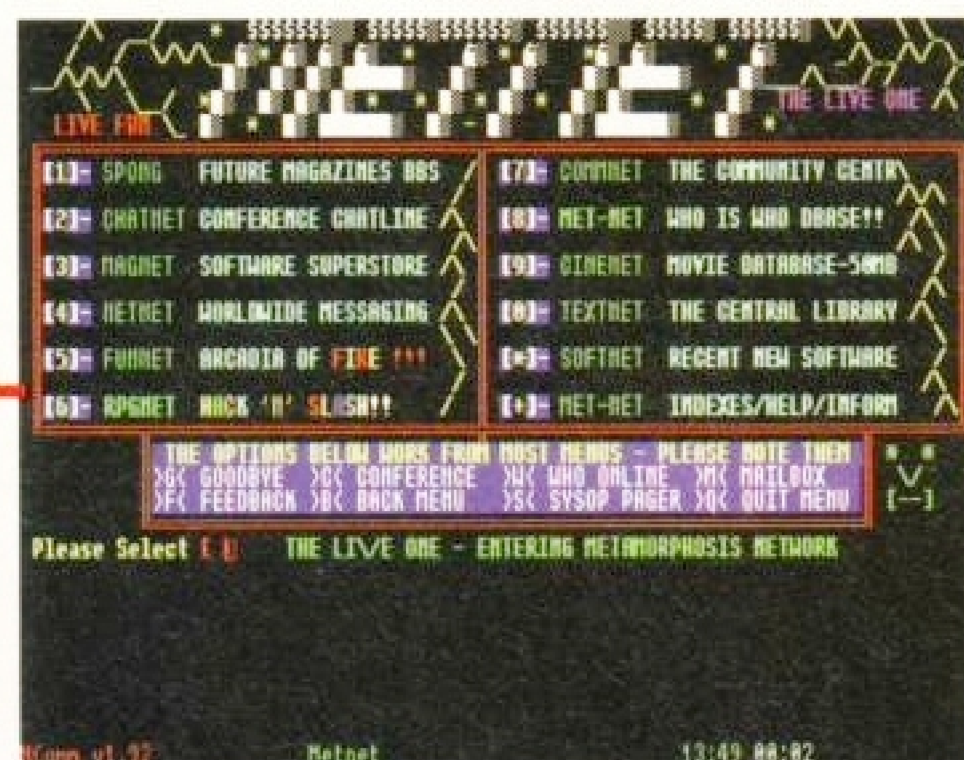
After dialling the number for Metnet, we are greeted with a welcome screen. Pressing the Escape key takes us on to the next screen...



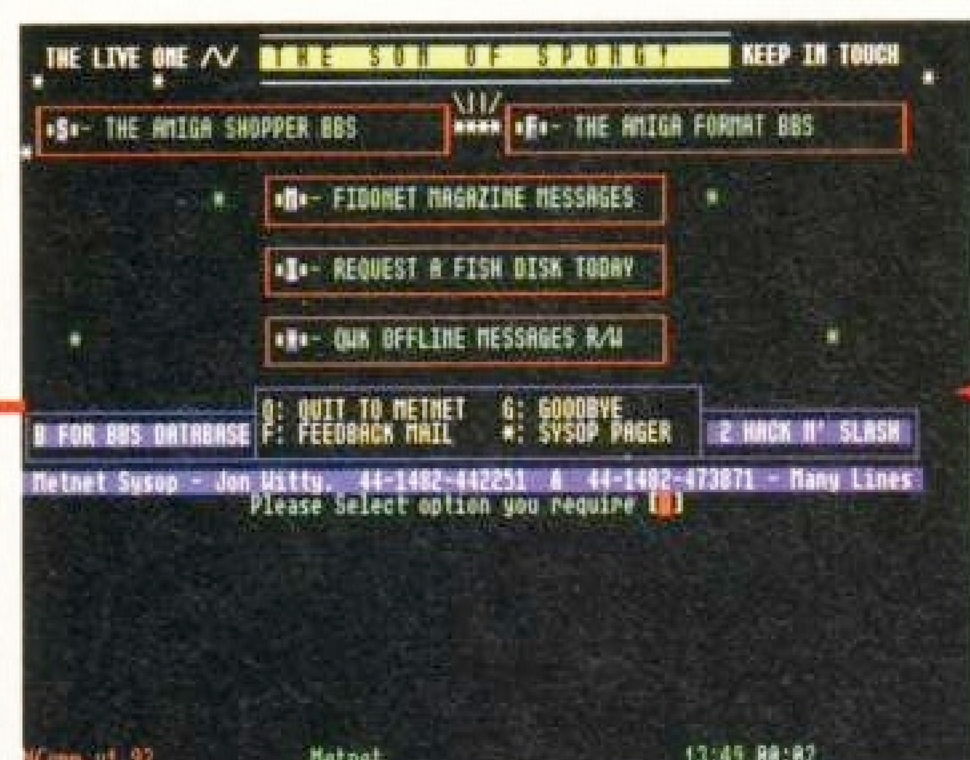
...where we enter our name and password. If you are a new user, you have to enter your details so that the Sysop can verify who you are. The truth will out, so don't lie.



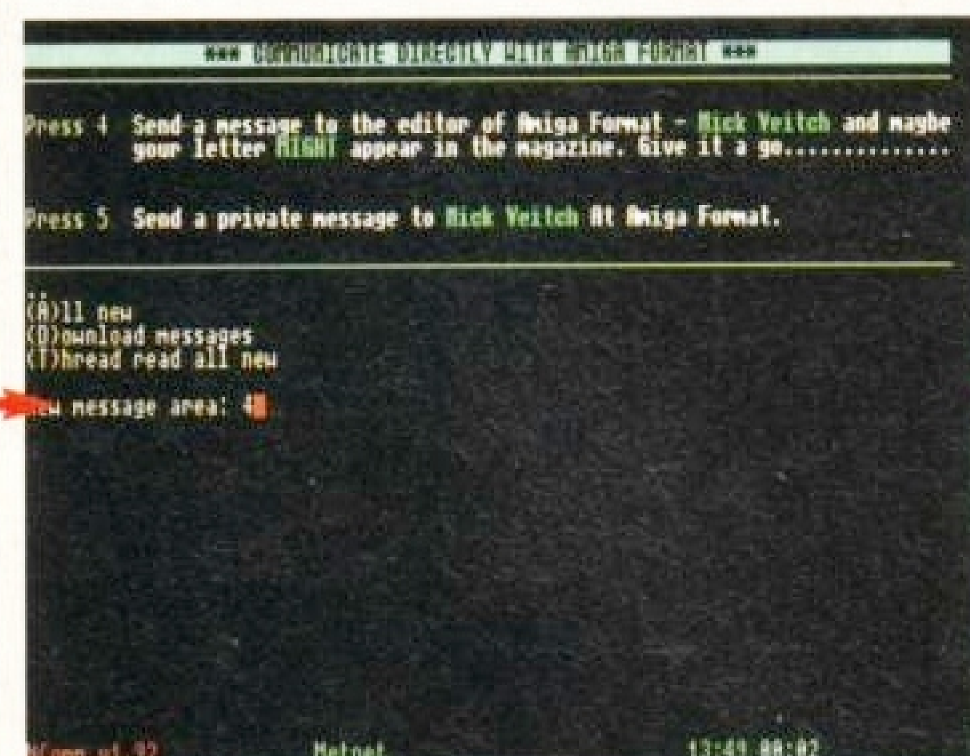
Once we have successfully logged on, we are taken to the bulletin menu.



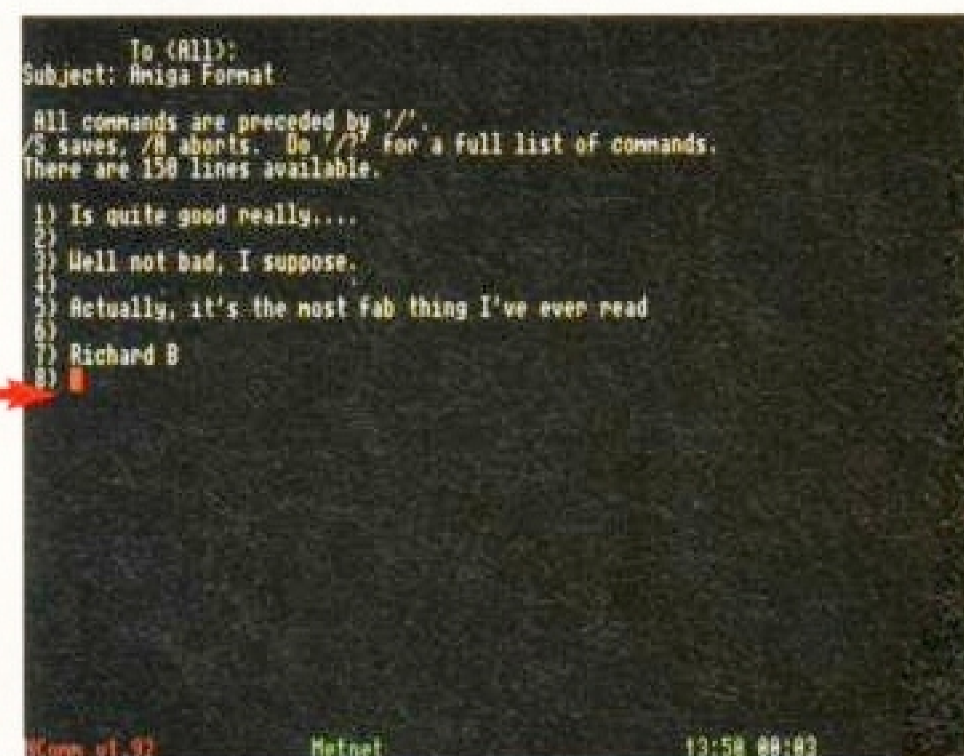
Quitting out of the bulletin menu takes us into the main menu of Metnet.



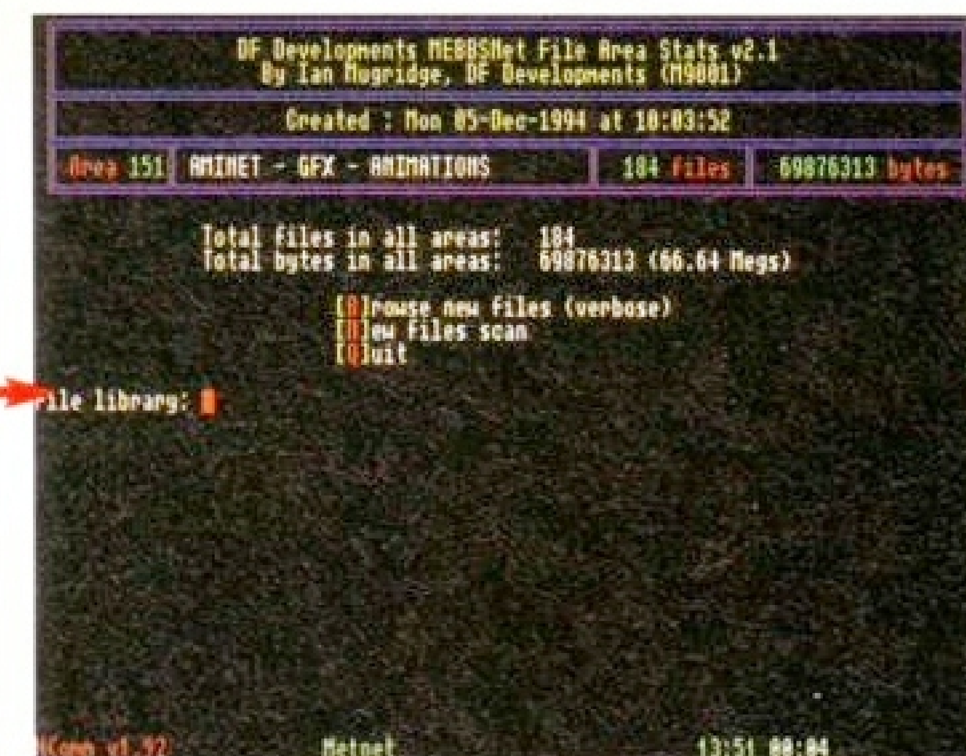
Let's have a look at what's happening on Son Of Spong!, the *Amiga Format* BBS.



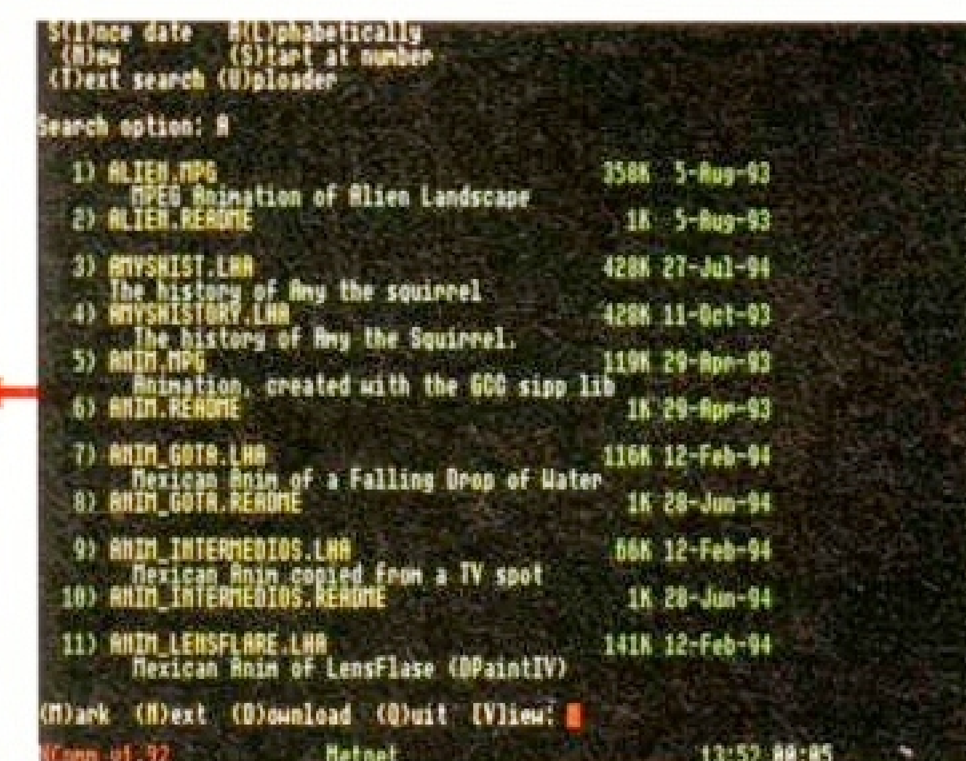
Let's send a message to Nick Veitch telling him what a fabulous magazine *Amiga Format* is.



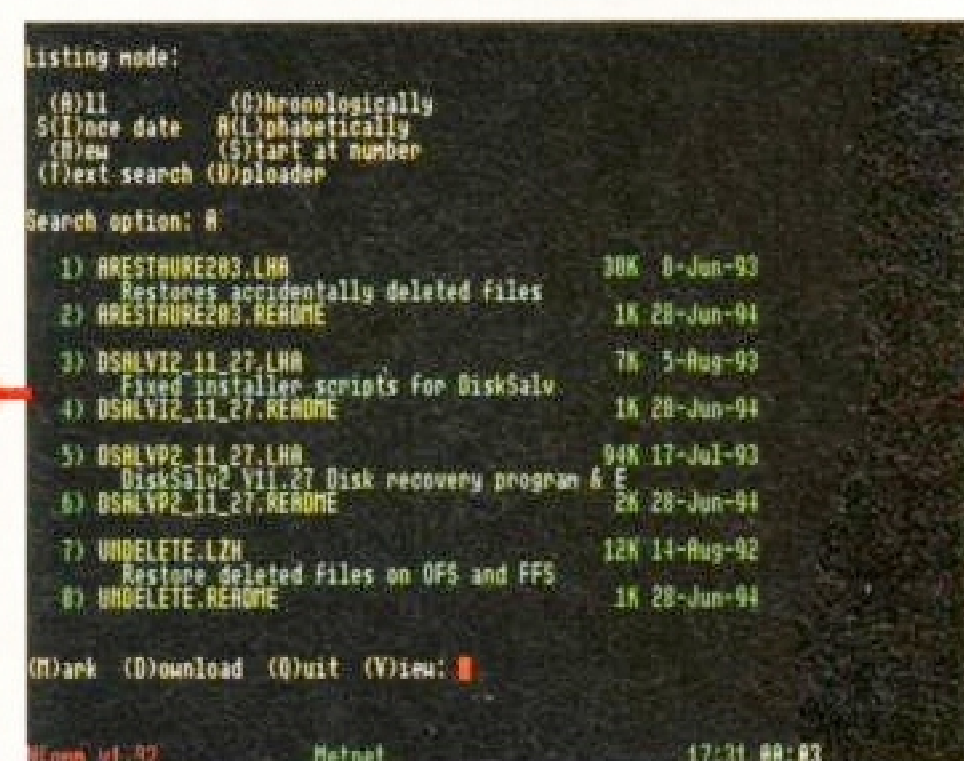
Once we've flattered Nick by saying how good the mag is, we can toss him a fiendishly difficult Workbench question.



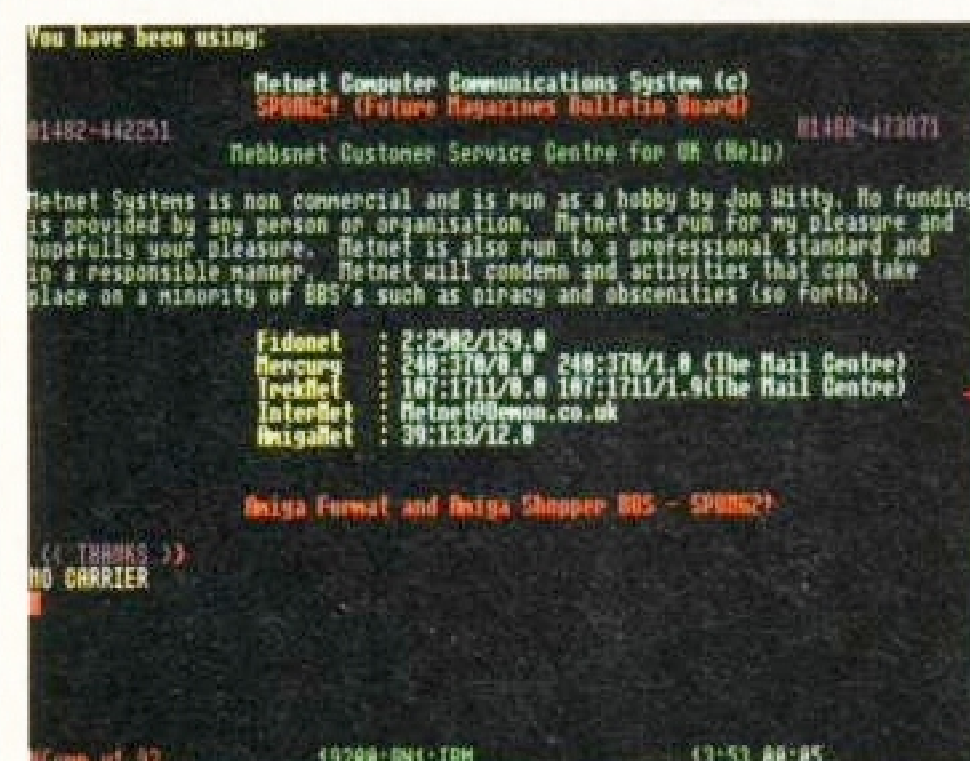
We've sent the message, so let's see what cool animations are available on Metnet.



Here's a list of the Metnet files, as you can see there's a wide and varied selection.



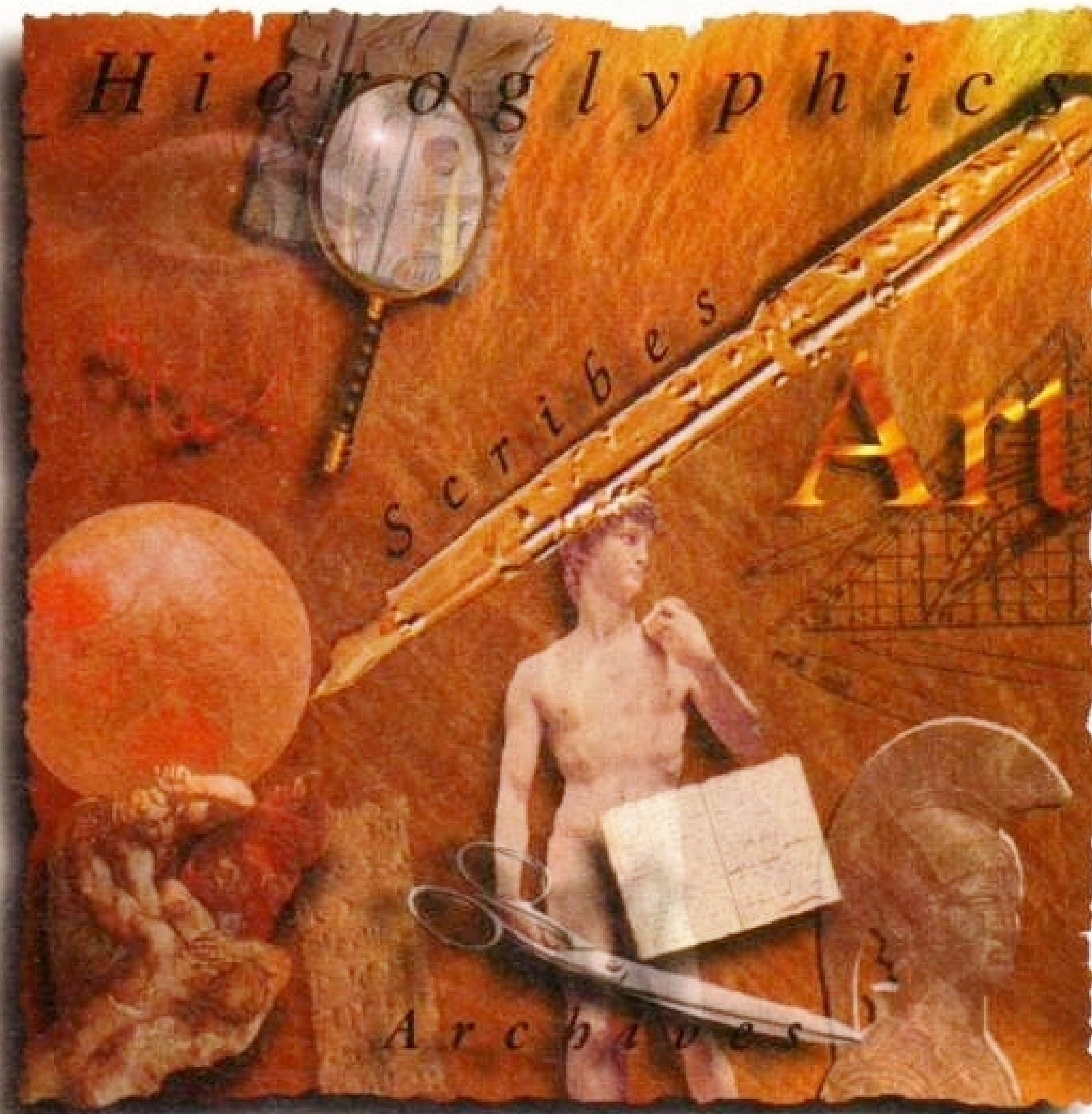
As we delve a bit further into Metnet we can find even more interesting things.



That's enough for one day. Let's log out. Here's the logout message from Metnet.

SoftWood Software
will go down in history,
the best there's been... for ages.

The way we all communicate today has evolved through centuries of development and change. Prehistoric man set the ball rolling when he used cave pictures as a means of describing his hunting conquests. Probably the most famous of all 'picture writing' techniques was that used by the Egyptians. Known as Hieroglyphics, which means 'sacred carved inscription', this ancient form of information technology quickly spread to all parts of the Mediterranean region. Gradually pictures were rationalised and both numbers and letters were eventually formed.



The Greeks were the first to use these letters in a way that is familiar to us all, and they in turn passed this knowledge on to the Romans. It was then that an alphabet was formed using only capital letters; the basis of most of today's languages. Inscriptions in stone, often filled with lead or bronze, eventually gave way to clay tablets, papyrus and ultimately parchment (treated animal skins). By AD 100 parchment and papyrus books were being created. Another 600 years passed before books began using capitals for headings and small letters, known as 'half unicals', for the main body of text. Although still made by hand, pages were easier to produce and became far more legible in the process. It was the mid 15th century before sets of small interchangeable metal letters were arranged, inked and pressed against paper to form an impression. The start of a printing process that was a less labour intensive way of spreading the written word was here. It was so successful, that with continual refinements, it remained the industry standard until the 1950's. Since then, the process of off-set litho printing has replaced 'hot metal type'.

The biggest leap in the presentation of languages has probably been achieved in the last ten years. With the adoption of computer generated text as a new standard, complicated layouts can now be designed and printed at the touch of a few keys.

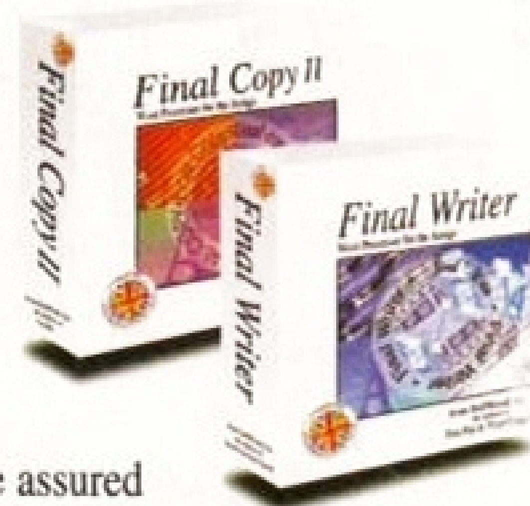
And it doesn't stop there. Archiving and record keeping works hand in hand with these new methods of processing text and allows far faster methods of data retrieval than ever before. This latest technology has revolutionised the world of print, and has opened the door to an explosion of communication possibilities.

*At SoftWood our constant aim is to provide **you** with the most powerful and up to date software possible for your specification of Amiga.*

Our word processing packages have repeatedly won the favours of magazine reviewers, who have awarded SoftWood products their highest accolades, all over the world. We are continually updating and improving those products and adding new ones, such as Final Data™, to our range in our endeavours to bring the revolution into your home... and onto your Amiga.

Word Processing/Publishing...

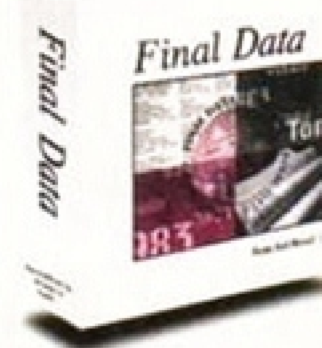
Whatever specification Amiga you own, SoftWood have the perfect solution for your requirements. ***Final Copy II™ Release 2*** is at the peak of achievement when running a twin floppy based Amiga configuration, whilst ***Final Writer™ Release 3*** is the only hard drive compulsory Amiga word processor - it leaps a stage ahead and doesn't make any compromises to be floppy disk compatible.



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Our new Database...

The latest addition to our family, ***Final Data™***, is designed in the true SoftWood tradition and brings you a program which is not only extremely powerful, but also very easy to use. Indeed, you can learn to set up your ***Final Data™*** database, enter your information and print the results in a matter of minutes... not hours. You'll soon be generating all kinds of reports and label print runs to suit your kind of work.





bringing the revolution into your home... and onto your Amiga.

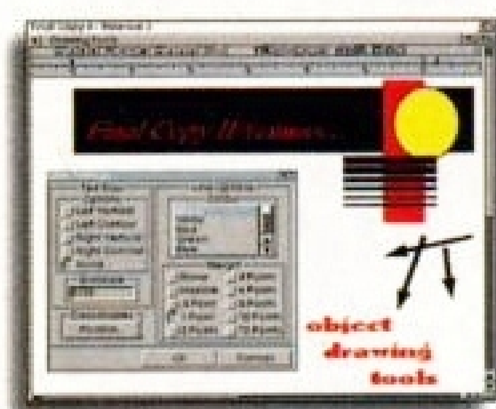
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Final Copy II™

Release 2

Designed to get the most out of an Amiga twin floppy drive system, ***Final Copy II***™ offers more than just word processing (at which it naturally excels) and opens up a world where 'how the document looks' is as important as 'what the document says'. ***Final Copy II***™ is ideal for that quick letter but also has powerful features that produce end results that you'd normally associated with Desk Top Publishing packages - easy to achieve, without the fuss!

Unique features such as **FastDraw**™ on screen drawing tools (to generate boxes, borders, lines and arrows etc.) and **PerfectPrint**™ (a system that enables you to print Postscript™ outline fonts to absolutely any printer in



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Final Copy II™ requires an Amiga system with twin floppy disk drives or a hard disk drive and a minimum of 1Mb. free RAM (A600 hard drive - 1.5Mb). Flexible and practical from floppies; no installation or multiple disk swaps required.

Final Writer™

Release 3

This newly upgraded release of ***Final Writer***™ is building on the success of *Release 2*. Improvements and innovations, along with all the features that made ***Final Writer***™ a winner, mean that the best is now even better still. Hard drive compulsory, the program is aimed at the power user offering the ultimate in performance. Just like *Final Copy II*™ you can take advantage of the excellent output associated with **PerfectPrint**™, but added to that is a host of other advanced features too...

FastDraw Plus™ increases the versatility of the on screen drawing tools with options like rotation.

TextBlocks™ allow you to position text anywhere on the page, at any size and at any angle.

TouchTools™ & **PowerUserBars**™ make life more simple with 'one touch' control. Just click on a button to define,



change and save such attributes as font size, text position, bold, italic, underline, justification, bullets, line spacing, indents etc. One magazine stated "this is the closest thing to Microsoft Word to appear on the Amiga".

Final Writer™ can import, scale, crop, view on screen and output structured PostScript EPS clip-art images to any printer, and we even include 100 quality images for your use. And, if you use a PostScript printer, ***Final Writer***™ extends your options... thumbnails, scaling, crop marks and halftoning. Add floating palettes, ArRexx/Macros, undo/redo (for both text formatting **and** graphics), table of contents, auto indexing, table of illustrations, bibliography generation and lots more for real power. ***Release 3*** takes your Amiga even further with new drag & drop text, spell while you type, dictionary hyphenation, foreign language dictionaries, auto save, polygon graphics and irregular shape generation.

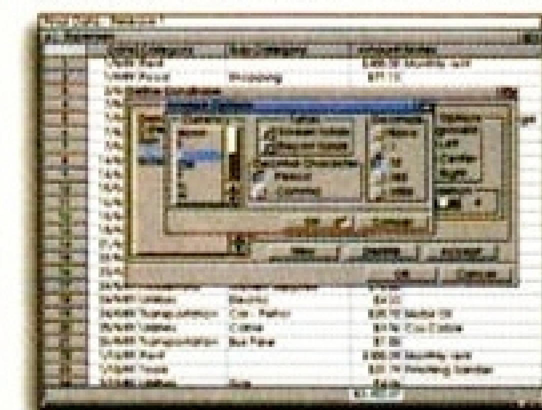
Amiga word publishing power for only ***£74.95*** *inc. p&p.*

Final Writer™ Rel 3 requires an Amiga running Workbench 2 or 3 with a hard disk drive and a minimum of 2Mb. free RAM.

Final Data™

New Release

Final Data™ has been designed to be by far the EASIEST TO USE Database for your Amiga. Many users dislike the involved "two stage" process conventional databases force you to follow. To set up a ***Final Data***™ database, you simply define a column for each type of information you want to keep eg. first name, last name, address, town, county, postcode and phone number etc. Incidentally, you can add or remove columns at any time. Your new database will appear as a table with rows and columns allowing you to view lots of data at the same time. Column widths can be adjusted by simply dragging their borders with the mouse. Data is then entered into "cells" and ***Final Data***™ even detects

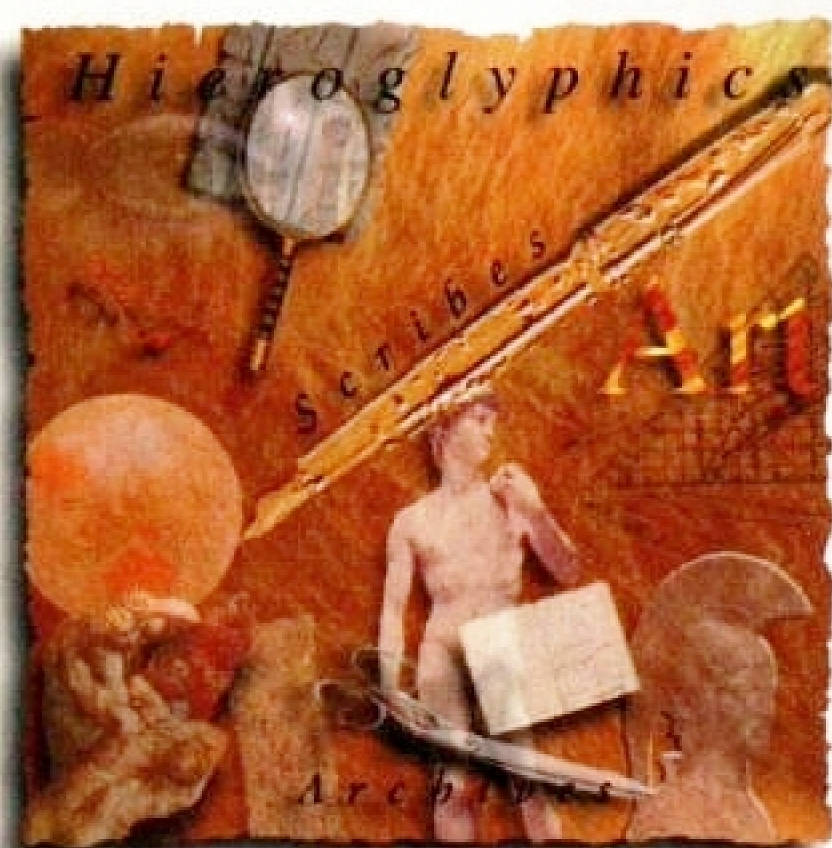


entries of invalid dates etc. and displays an alert message. Screen totals are available as options on all amounts and calculations (numbers can also be formatted with currency signs and commas). ***Final Data***™ is ideal for label printing and has built-in routines that remove all the complexities from this task. You can even utilise the "Print Merge" feature found in *Final Copy II*™ and *Final Writer*™ - simply select the program you are using and ***Final Data***™ does the rest. It can also read any database created in *Pen Pal*™, MiAmiga File and *File IIsg*™ as well as ASCII files found in other many other programs.

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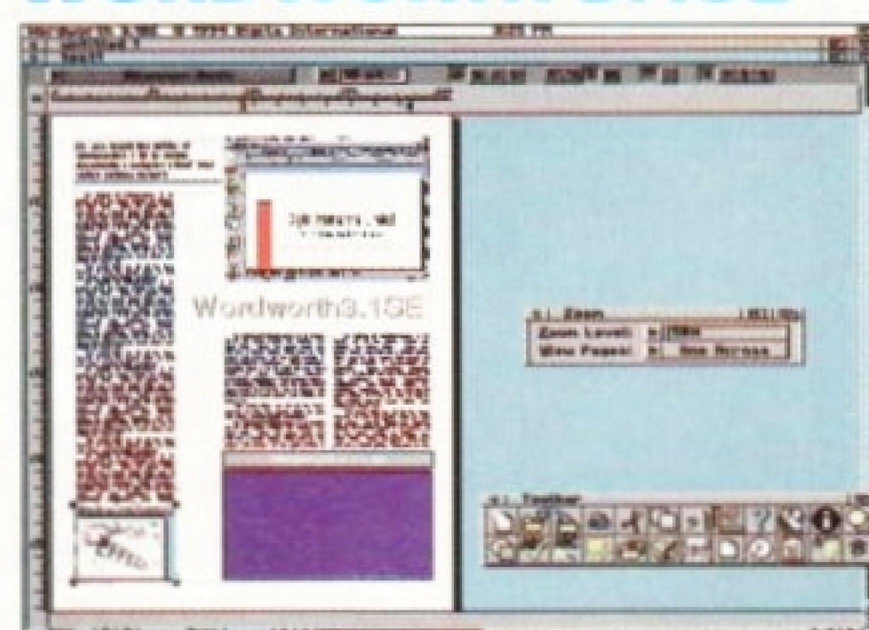
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WORDWORTH 3.1SE



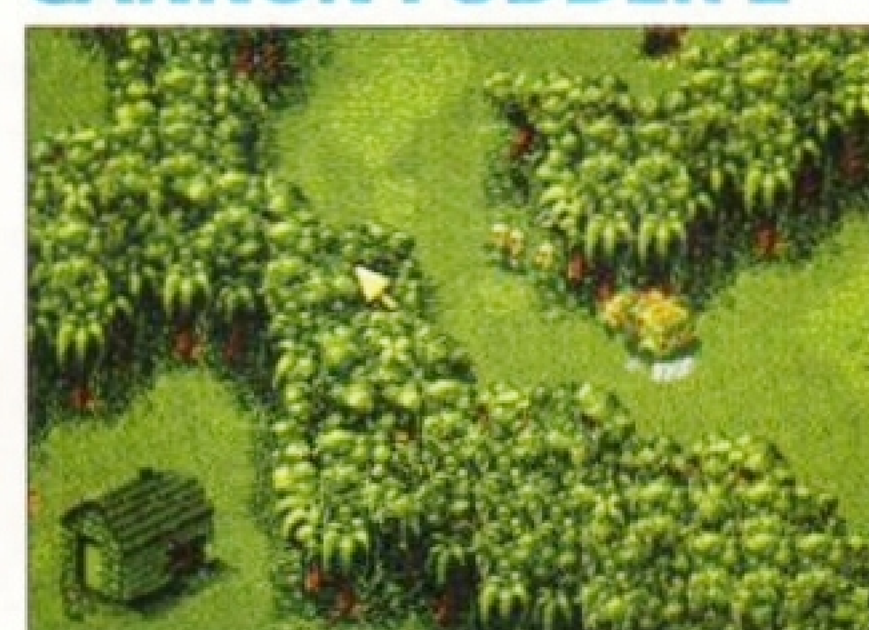
This astonishing word processing package (91% *AF67*) featuring on-line help and an 116,000 word spell checker and thesaurus can be purchased through our mail order department for £49.99 or you can get it FREE if you subscribe now – isn't that even more astonishing? Sadly, we can't afford to put it in a box, but otherwise the package is identical to the one in Readers' Offers on page 120.
(2Mb RAM required) GOLD rated

ALADDIN



A Gold-rated game (90% *AF66*), *Aladdin* is a brilliant conversion of the Mega Drive platform romp which could quite conceivably be the prettiest Amiga game ever, or so Steve Bradley claimed in his review. He also said "*Aladdin* truly is a lovely game", and he knows about these things. Subscribe to *Amiga Format* and *Aladdin* is yours, FREE, instead of the more usual £29.99.
(AGA only) GOLD rated

CANNON FODDER 2



And the *Amiga Format* Gold awards just keep on coming. The sequel to quite possibly Sensible Software's finest hour, *Cannon Fodder 2* (90% *AF66*) retains all the playability of the original game while offering several different time zones in which to deploy your universal soldiers. Subscribe to *AF* today and this exciting new release is yours for NO CHARGE (normally £29.99).
GOLD rated

AREXX & INTERNET BOOKS



For a little light bedtime reading, *Amiga Format* is pleased to offer both *Internet, Modems And The Whole Comms Thing* (by Davey Winder, RRP £19.95) AND *ARexx: Your Amiga's Built-In Turbocharger* (by Toby Simpson, RRP £17.95). For details of these blockbusters, turn to the *AF* Book Offers (page 142) or listen to Rod Lawton, Future Publishing's books editor: "These are simply the two best books in their field. I can't believe I've been talked into this..."

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5. Signed ....

Date ....

SCREEN PLAY

Another twist of Lemmings



THE LION KING: Is this a roaring success? Or is there claws for concern for Disney's mane attraction? We reveal all.

AMIGA FORMAT

YEAR WE GO



Welcome to 1995. What has the year in store for the Amiga? Well, if Commodore, or whoever picks up the pieces of Commodore, can get some Amigas into stores then the future looks rosy. A recent *Computer Trade Weekly* survey found that 82% of retailers want the Amiga back – they know they can sell them, and the demand remains high.

Sensible World Of Soccer went on sale about a week before Christmas and sold over 70,000 copies. They are flying out of the stores. It's a timely boost for the Amiga, and a reminder that this machine remains the best home computer. How many parents can afford to spend over £1,000 on a PC for the kids? Not many.

Soapbox removed, this month we dissect the beat-em-up genre. The best eight examples fight it out, but which one takes the spoils? Turn the page. The long-awaited *The All New World Of Lemmings* takes a bow as does Disney's *The Lion King*. Way back in June '94, we demoed Empire's adventure game, *DreamWeb*. The finished version took its time to arrive. Worth the wait? Page 48 spills the beans.

And let's hope that the quality of games software for the coming year matches that of 1994.

AMIGA FORMAT'S REVIEW POLICY

Every month we scour the world's software houses for the latest and greatest Amiga games. We try to ensure we keep you as up-to-date as possible, and we'll stop at nothing to bring you the best, definitive, no-nonsense reviews of the games that matter.

WHAT OUR REVIEW SCORES MEAN

90+%
The crème de la crème of games. Only the very best, most playable and original games are awarded an *AF* Gold – the most highly-prized rating there is.

80-89%
These games are very good, but due to minor flaws are not the finest examples of their genre.

70-79%
Good games which are worth buying, especially if you have a special interest in a certain game type.

60-69%
Average releases with limited gameplay and appeal. Games in this category tend to have significant flaws.

50-59%
Below average games like this are unlikely to impress your mates or your wallet. Try to avoid if you can.

40-49%
Overwhelmingly poor quality games with major flaws and appalling gameplay. They're an embarrassment.

Less than 40%
The absolute pits, the lowest of the low. Don't even consider borrowing 'em.

FIVE PAGE BEAT-EM-UP SPECIAL

BATTLE OF THE BEAT-EM-UPS p42

A history of Amiga beat-em-ups from *Karate Master* to *Mortal Kombat II*, featuring *Shadow Fighter* and *Shaq Fu* reviews, plus the ultimate beat-em-up prize!



SHADOW FIGHTER: Kick, crunch and hurt people.



SHAQ FU: Rid the world of Sett's minions.

REVIEWS

Steve McGill waxes lyrical on the history of the one-on-one beat-em-up before reviewing two of the latest bone crunching games of the genre to be released.



You might argue that beat-em-ups represent a contextualised adolescent rite of passage that focuses on theoretical and experiential exploration, symbolic enactments and relational gendered oppositions realised through a synthetic anima which strikes a chord with the ingressability and internality of the human psyche.

Then again, you might argue that the above is a load of pretentious tosh, written as a cheap joke, about a game genre which, despite being overdone for the last few years, still represents one of the most enjoyable and rewarding game types that can be engaged in with a computer, a friend, and a joystick.

But it wasn't always so. The beat-em-up first saw the light of day in 1984 with a peculiar affair called *Kung Fu Master*. It was from Data East and it was a left-to-right scrolling game, where your character could kick and punch, or duck and kick and punch a load of people who rushed toward him. He knocked them away, and if the player made any headway, they'd find that there were several villains to sort out and a level structure. In all, a promising beginning. But that was still a one-player game and not the face-to-face, one-on-one beat-em-up that we're used to now.

The first one-on-one to appear in the arcades was *Karate Master*. It took place on a log spanning a ravine, and although it was popular, it never really hinted at the explosion that was about to take place in the blossoming home computer field. (If you want to check out what *Karate Master* was all about, contact F1 Licenceware, they have a decent PD version in stock.)

There's some controversy about what ignited the beat-em up explosion. *AF* reckons the first beat-em-up that could be played at home was *Kung Fu*. Released for the ZX Spectrum in 1984 by Bug-Byte, it featured unusual vector graphics and took quite a bit of playing around with to get used to. Incidentally, it cost £6.95. It was a pre-indicator of what was to come and a commendable effort that deserves to be remembered as the first home computer beat-em-up.

SMASH AND GRAB

The first game to smash the games playing public in the face and alert them to the new order in game genres was *Way Of The Exploding Fist*. Designed by top software house of the time (1985), Melbourne House. It featured two identical fighters (one dressed in black, the other in white), several different backgrounds and 16 fighting moves; each one corresponding to the individual positions of the joystick with the fire button pressed or released.

Some people, myself included, let it take over their lives for weeks until, eventually, they started dreaming about the best combinations of kicks and punches to pull off against human opposition. Very sad indeed. There was

Battle of the beat-em-ups

a one-player mode, but it was too easy. The computer presented little opposition – a problem that still hinders many latter-day presentations.

But the floodgates were opened. System 3 released *International Karate* in early 1986. Though not as successful as *Exploding Fist* (it looked and played too much like a clone) it sold enough units to encourage System 3 to try again.

1987 brought *International Karate +*. Considered by many to be the best release on any platform ever, *IK+* added the novelty factor of an extra computer-controlled fighter on screen at all times. This meant that, even if you chose to play a two-player game against an inferior friend, the result couldn't be guaranteed every time. The computer player was the wild card.

1987 also witnessed the worst year for takings in the arcades since the *Space Invaders* revolution. A combination of waxing interest in home computer games – 16-bit platforms such as the Atari ST and Amiga 500 were beginning to catch fire in the imagination and sales stakes – and Government legislation restricting the age of persons entering arcades left the coin-op industry in tatters. No one was interested in what the arcades had to offer. And then *Street Fighter II* from Capcom appeared.

Featuring a standard arcade stick with six fire buttons, there were 12 characters and 12 backdrops to boost the atmosphere. The inclusion of a plot of sorts was a first for a one-on-one beat-em-up. You had to choose a character and through him/her become the Warrior Of The World by defeating all of the other characters; four of those being bosses who demanded real skill and cunning to beat.

This couldn't be done by hand/eye co-ordination alone. The player had to discover hidden secret moves, invent and implement move combinations and generally try whatever came to hand to take an opponent by surprise. All in all, the biggest, most influential coin-op beat-em up to hit the arcades.

Since *Street Fighter II* exploded into the public's consciousness, no other beat-em-up has had quite the same impact. Commendable mentions are *Mortal Kombat II* and *Virtua Fighter*.

Virtua Fighter probably represents the future of the beat-em up. 3D polygonal characters, multi-rotational zoom views, beautiful backdrops with millions of colours, and a square playing area that fighters could be pushed out of for a 'ring out' (they lose the bout no matter what their state of health).

The special moves have to be seen to be believed; stomping on prone opponents after indulging in six-foot jumps, bicycle kicks, rapid punches. Couple this to a projection screen almost six feet wide with stereo speakers that don't miss a bone stomping crunch or a flesh rending tear and you're talking extreme violence city. 

Continued overleaf ➡

Steve McGill challenges beat-em-up *Shadow Fighter* to a bout against *Shaq Fu*. But which of these new contenders will match the mighty *Mortal Kombat II*?

Shadow Fighter





Ballroom dancing hasn't been the same since they allowed the full contact ruling.



The basketball player looks suspiciously like Shaq from *Shaq Fu*.



With any luck, Gremlin will form a Pupazz fan club. Here we see some top torch action.

As surprises go, beat-em-ups don't come much more surprising than *Shadow Fighter*. Programmed and designed by an unknown, unheard of group of Italian ex-conscripts, this beat-em-up rates as one of the best available on any 16-bit platform. It incorporates all of the features that make a computer combat simulation enjoyable...

Sixteen characters that are player-selectable. A control system that's easy to get to grips with. Special moves that make sense and can be pulled off 90 per cent of the time that the combatant demands them. Backdrops that feel as if they're part of the game rather than just a bit of lushness tacked on for the sake of appearances (a la *Elfmania*). And finally, move combos that not only look good but also become intuitive and are repeatable by a skillful player.

Add to all of the above a manga-esque, cartoony look to the characters and you're looking at a presentation that's not only going to delight you visually but will appeal to your atavistic primeval urges and keep you playing until you've mastered the special moves and intricacies of every character.

The special moves make more sense, because the actual combinations of joystick action required relate to the movement on screen and so feel natural. Unlike the more mechanical responses needed for *Mortal Kombat II*.

To add icing to the cake, there's a training mode which, while helping the player to learn special moves and combinations, feels more like taking part in an horrific, hallucinatory cartoon. Hurrah for Pupazz the demonic vengeful spirit of all shop dummies!

While the training mode is hilarious, the two-player option is the most fun. It doesn't offer anything unusual in terms of structure, such as the extra fighter in *IK+* or the tag teaming of *Body Blows*. But it's passable. The players choose a character each and fight a duel. Best out of three bouts wins, and that's it. Meanwhile, the one-player tournament is pleasing while at the same time being a bit less predictable than normal.

To earn a bout from the Shadow Fighter himself, medium or hard must be selected and a certain number of bouts fought; 10 and 16 respectively. It's a good idea, because it discourages the temptation to play through and win all the bouts at easy level and then never play the game again.

So, to sum up, *Shadow Fighter* is one of the favourite contenders to take the *Amiga Format* beat-em up crown.

GRAPHICS: 9 out of 10
Cartoony, larger than life and lush. Hurrah.

SOUND: 8 out of 10
Full contact biffs add lots of atmosphere.

ADDICTION: 8 out of 10
Very addictive when playing against a friend.

PLAYABILITY: 8 out of 10
Easy-to-pull-off special moves are a boon.

Shadow Fighter

Publisher:	Gremlin Graphics 0114 275 3423
Price:	£29.99
Versions:	A500/600/1200
System requirements:	1Mb
Release date:	Out now

VERDICT:
Good enough and different enough from *MKII* to make it worth buying.

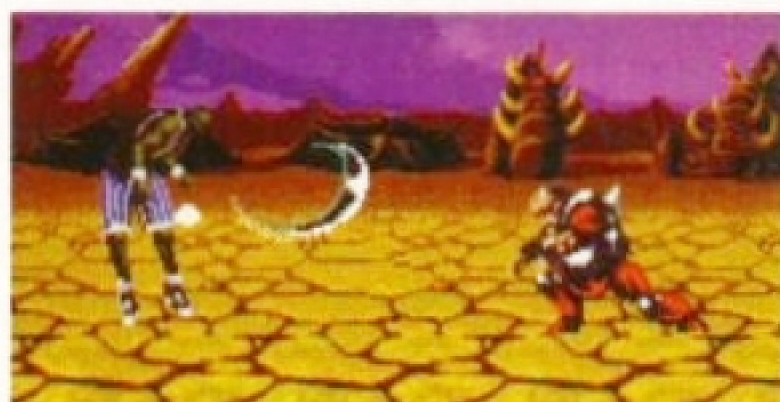
OVERALL SCORE
89%



Shaq Fu has been translated from the SNES and has lost definition and colour along the way, but can it give the rest a run for their money?

Shaq Fu

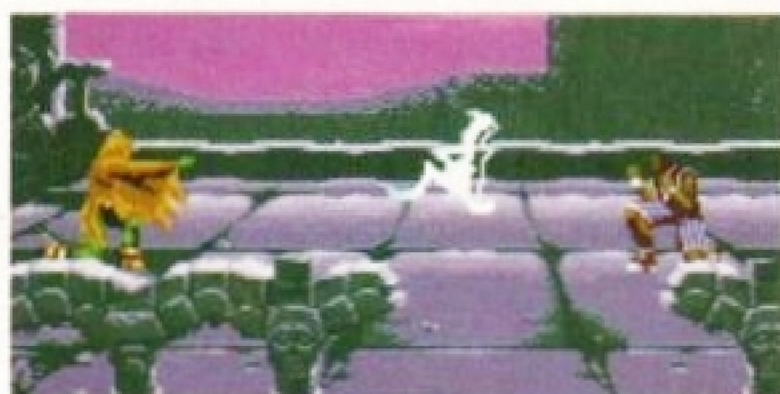




Who needs mighty morphin' Power Rangers when you've got *Shaq Fu* to play with.



Aladdin takes time out from the animated platform game to indulge himself in his favourite pastime – beating the unliving daylights out of Sett's ace henchman.



Certain Equity card carrying ghosts have been reduced to bit parts in this game.

Shaq Fu is one of those beat-em-ups that could have been good. Very good. Unfortunately, because it's been converted from the SNES it suffers from some rather nasty side effects, verging on a hangover.

For a start, it comes on six disks and demands an inordinate amount of swapping every time a new character or bout is opted for. This would be just about acceptable if the game was as good as *Mortal Kombat II* or *Shadow Fighter* (four disks). But it isn't.

The characters are horribly small. Much smaller than on the SNES, to their detriment. You never feel completely in control even though the controls are easy to get to grips with. The software even makes allowance for owners of two-button joysticks, which is a good thing.

The special moves are inventive and novel but you never feel as if the damage being handed out is really making the opposition suffer. And if there's one thing that's important in a beat-em-up, it's the feeling that you're handing out max hurtage. It's a shame because the sound does a good job of backing up and complementing the on-screen action.

Whooshes, aarrghs, and skull- fracturing inertia-laden contact sound just about perfect. But it's to no avail.



The whiplash of the morning star sounds fantastic. Check it out.

Still on the plus side, there's a cookie plot that just about manages to carry the game. It's sort of like *Yie Ar Kung Fu* with a pointlessly silly map thrown in to cover up the fact that it's just a simple selection screen.

You take on the role of Shaq and you've got to fight your way through all of the fighters until you meet the demonically evil Sett. Kill him and you've completed the game.

Shaq Fu won't set the beat-em-up world on fire, but it's competent and proficient enough and if that's what you're looking for, you've got it. AF

Continued overleaf ➡



Sett proves to his adversary that truly he is the mightiest of the malignantly malicious demons.

Shaq Fu

Publisher:	Ocean 0161 832 6633
Price:	£25.99
Versions:	A500/600/1200
System requirements:	1Mb
Release date:	Out now

VERDICT:
The translation from the SNES hasn't done the Amiga any favours.

OVERALL SCORE
68%

GRAPHICS: 6 out of 10
Small. Loses clarity in conversion from SNES.

SOUND: 8 out of 10
Sonic sound sensation. Even better than *MKII*.

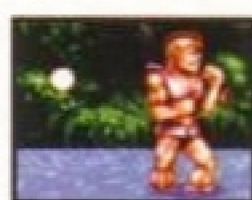
ADDICTION: 6 out of 10
It's addictive if you're a beat-em-up freak.

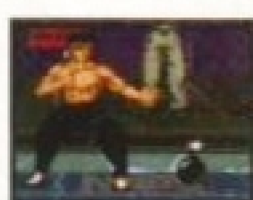
PLAYABILITY: 6 out of 10
Let down by the vertically challenged graphics.

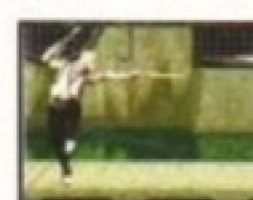
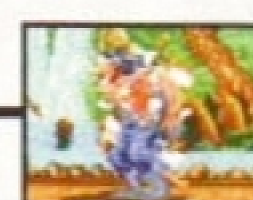
It's a knockout!

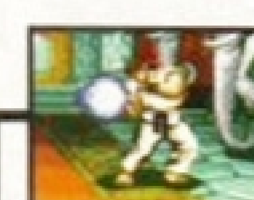
Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome the contenders for the beat-em-up crown of the Amiga world...

Quarter Final







ELFMANIA V RISE OF THE ROBOTS.
Aesthetically, it's hard to choose between these two. Gameplay-wise, *Elfmania* draws first blood with a believable, novel structure.

Despite a pathetic attempt by *Rise Of The Robots* to fight back, *Elfmania* keeps its finger on the fire button while looking elsewhere and reduces the robots to an entanglement of anodised anodyne aluminium.
WINNER: Elfmania.

SHADOW FIGHTER V SHAQ FU
Shaq Fu is a tried and tested conversion from the SNES. But the fighters are smaller and the backgrounds less detailed. *Shadow Fighter*, however, has large, cartoony fighters and the colourful backgrounds look as if they're part of the action.

It could have been closer but *Shadow Fighter* is every bit as speedy as *Shaq Fu*. First and second round knockout.
WINNER: Shadow Fighter.

MORTAL KOMBAT II V DANGEROUS STREETS
It's sorrowful, but the challenge is over in a couple of seconds.

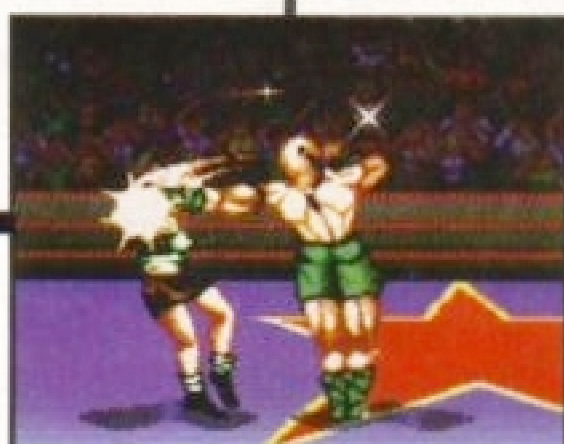
Despite the *Dangerous Streets'* fighter trying to defend herself with a move that makes her look like a lead grey slab of fridge (or something) *Mortal Kombat II*'s Mileena brushes her off with deft and deadly use of her Sai swords.

Too pathetic to watch.
WINNER: Mortal Kombat II.

ULTIMATE BODY BLOWS V STREET FIGHTER II
The meatiest, closest, most vicious of the first rounds.

Street Fighter wins the first bout with its instantly recognisable characters, but *UBB* has a superior control system that doesn't rely solely on context-sensitive special moves. And *UBB* has 21 compared to *SFII*'s 12, which sees *UBB* float through to the semi-final. Hurrah!
WINNER: Ultimate Body Blows.

Semi-Final



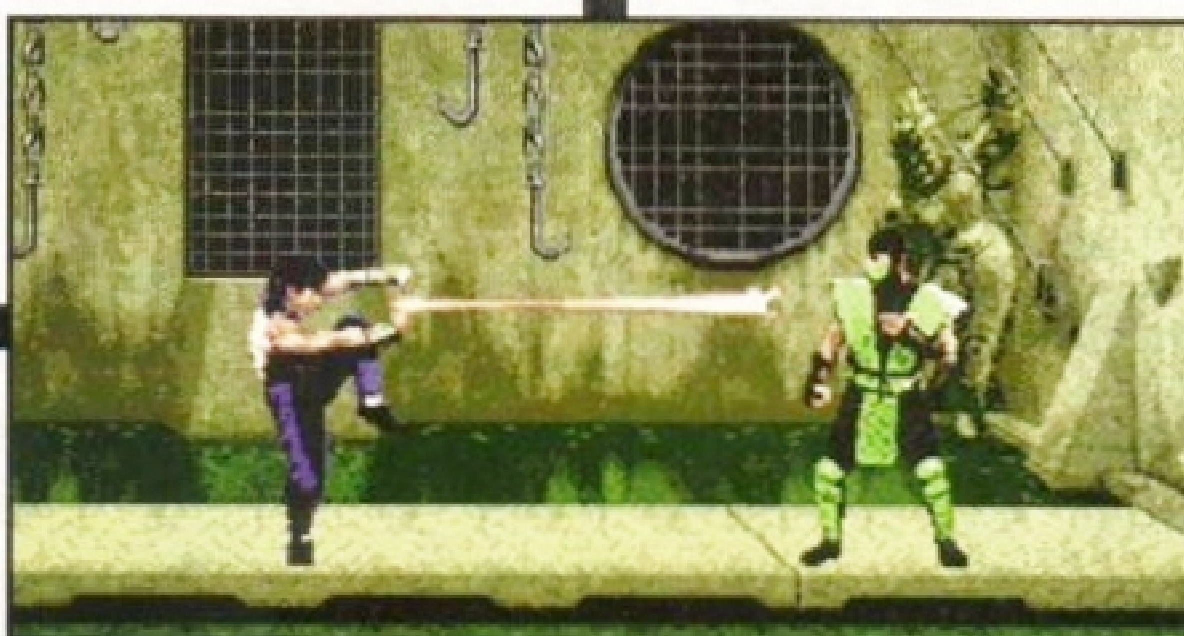
ELFMANIA V SHADOW FIGHTER
Graphically there's not much in it. But there are more backgrounds in *Shadow Fighter*, and they feel as if they're part of the action. And *Shadow Fighter* is meatier. Kicks, punches and special moves, when they connect, make the right sort of max hurtage whump. But the killer blow is the control system. Despite a one-button joystick being all that's required, special and standard moves are in abundance.
WINNER: Shadow Fighter.

ULTIMATE BODY BLOWS V MORTAL KOMBAT 2
UBB outnumbers *MKII* in choice of characters and threatens to push the chart-topping *MKII* off its pedestal. But *MKII* hits back with sheer malice. It's got blood. More blood than you could drink in a lifetime of Satanic worship. It's got inertia, the characters may be shorter in number but they look real.

Battered and weary, MKII takes the bout, but boy was it close.
WINNER: Mortal Kombat II.

FINAL





SHADOW FIGHTER V MORTAL KOMBAT II
MKII doesn't have as wide a selection of characters as *Shadow Fighter*. And *MKII* is grungier, dirtier, more real. Despite the fact that *Shadow Fighter* only offers a one-button joystick, in a way, this is a blessing. Most beat-em-up fans only own a one-button joystick, so why should they lose out? *MKII* isn't too enjoyable using only a one-buttoner; some of the special moves are too difficult to pull off.

MKII takes the advantage. It's the most politically incorrect. While failing to land a knockout blow on the proficient gameplay of *Shadow Fighter*, *MKII* was higher up the charts this Christmas, which makes *MKII* the undisputed winner.
WINNER: Mortal Kombat II.

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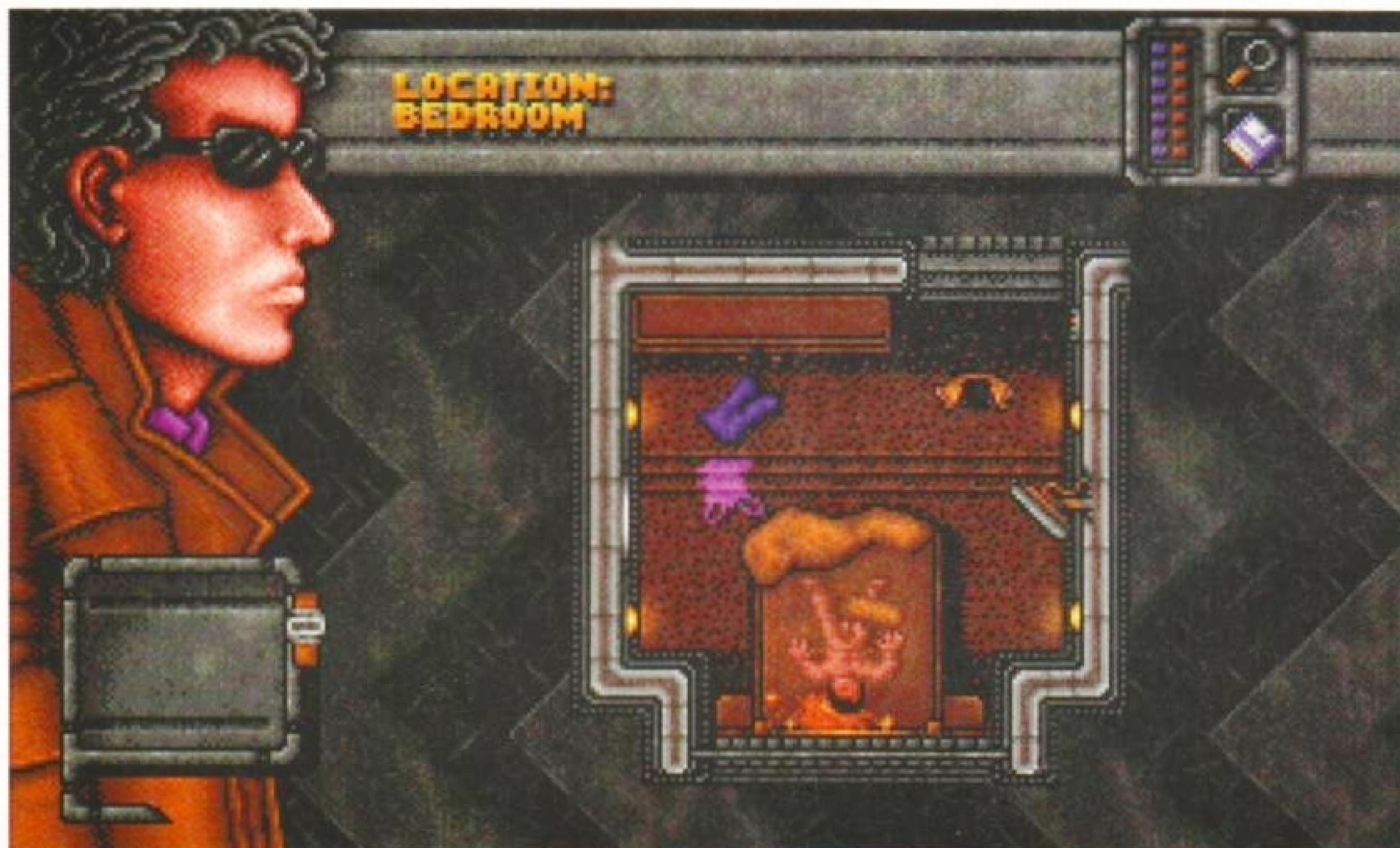
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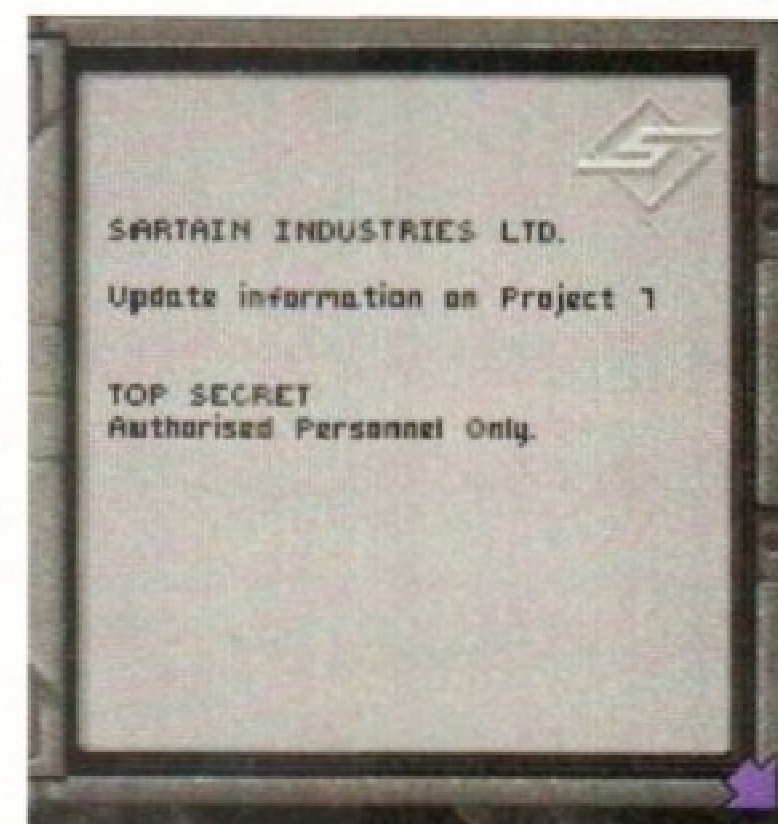
MEGA DRIVE

It's a mad, mad, mad, mad world, apparently. And Steve Bradley discovers that *DreamWeb* is pretty bonkers too. Or is it just the stuff that dreams are made of?

DreamWeb



Sex scene banished, we arrive in time to see the rock star suitably slaughtered.



Yet another step toward glory as you discover some secret paper.

I am mad, I am MAD, I AM MAD. Santa Claus gave a gun to me. Let loose the puppies of war. Mummy, take the bad man away. Two of the past four sentences appear on the back of the *DreamWeb* box. Which two? WHICH TWO? It's for you to decide. YOU DECIDE.

DreamWeb is a point 'n' click, viewed-from-the-ceiling adventure game and the unfortunate protagonist, Ryan, fears he's going mad. MAD. He's been having odd dreams – or were they dreams – and he's been kind enough to write a bizarre diary which contains a few clues, and a lot of squiggly writing.

Seven evil people are wandering the world. Or are they? OR ARE THEY? It's a nightmarish world, a murky, ill-lit world where *Bladerunner* meets *EastEnders*. A world of criminal activity, of plimsoll theft, of drug taking, of illicit sex in hotel rooms. Ryan, the deliverer, is the man to assassinate the magnificent seven, and you are he. But can you deliver?

You have a girlfriend. She's called Eden, and last night she let you stay at her flat. From here, your adventure begins, so be prepared to wander about, observing and picking up objects as you wend your merry way to the first cold-blooded killing.

The mouse is the tool through which you manoeuvre your way through this nightmare world and the screen portrays the particular room or area in which you currently reside. Quite why we need to look at an alarming profile of Ryan at all times remains a mystery. A mystery, dear reader, which your correspondent can clear up, once and for all, for in fact you *are* Ryan so therefore you are looking at yourself. AT YOURSELF. AT ALL TIMES. In a, ahem, self-analysis sort of way. Probably. So, that's that solved.

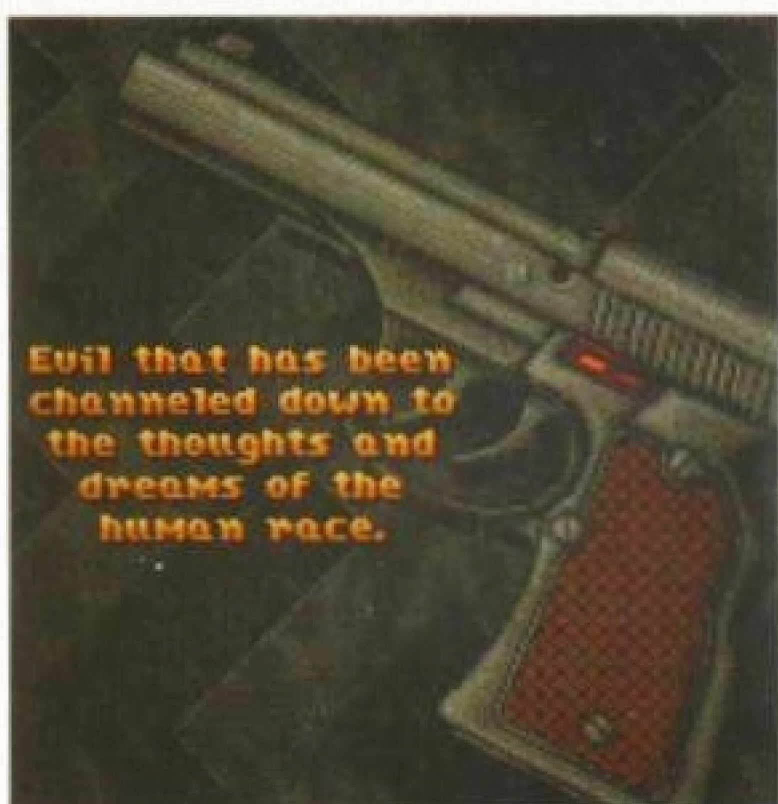
With but a door code and a network password, and the vague feeling that something rather odd is going on, you must travel from flat to flat, from bar to



'Ryan, Ryan – quick, kill the li-lo before it explodes!'



A 30-compartment inventory allows for all manner of useful knick knacks.



A horse walks into a bar: the barman says "Why the long face?". It's a cracker.

hotel to pool hall, collecting snippets of information, more door codes and weapons for the kill. Travel access areas are located at the edge of groups of map screens which then despatch you, *Star Trek*-style to the location of your choice. But certain locations are only revealed if you have accessed one of the various computerised network screens which are operated with cartridges – you can trip about for ages not knowing somewhere exists. Which it can't, if you don't know about it.

DreamWeb is a fiddly game. The puzzles are not wildly difficult to solve, but some of the objects are so tiny as to be virtually invisible. A zoom option allows you to search the rooms in detail, but you have to be eagle-eyed.

The scene: I'm at the hotel and I've safely negotiated the room-booking situation. I take my eye my off the screen for a millisecond and miss a vital animation sequence, (which I might have missed even if I had I been glued to the monitor). The hotel receptionist had punched in my details and a keycard, the size of a baby ant had slipped out of the machine on to the desk. I need this card to use the lift, but I failed to see it. Much brain-wracking later (OK, so I asked the friendly chap in sister mag, *Amiga Power*), the pixel was located and off we go again.

Footwear fetish

Yet, other puzzles are very easy to solve. You have a pair of plimsolls, but are zapped by a pink, laser whip-wielding lunatic who steals them and jumps into a waiting getaway car. Seconds later, you are inside your chum's flat and he happens to have a pair your size lying on the floor which you promptly slip on and, hey-ho, you're on your way.

'This game contains scenes of violence not suitable for small children'. Readers, this adventure is adult-orientated, which means there is a rather blurry 'sex scene' and some heinous axe-wielding. It isn't as exciting as it sounds. *DreamWeb*, for all its bluster about nightmares, madmen and plimsoll theft, is very much a traditional point 'n' click adventure game. It does have atmosphere, but droning music and ill-lit back streets can only be atmospheric for so long.



Keep yours eyes peeled for for the pixel masquerading as a keycard.



Of all the glamorous locations. No clues here, but the words 'screw' and 'driver' spring to mind.

Yet despite these reservations, *DreamWeb* isn't at all bad. It ain't as sophisticated as it pretends; depth-wise it's way off *Monkey Island 2*, but then, aren't they all. The real excitement is in the confrontation of your foe, only the problem here is that if you don't reach into your inventory, pull out the weapon and do the deed in the winking of an eye, it's game over. Teeth-gnashing. AF



Outside your friend Louis' house you suffer the indignation of plimsoll theft.

DreamWeb

Publisher:	Empire 0181-343 7337
Price:	£29.99
Versions:	A500/600, AGA
System requirements:	1Mb, AGA
Release date:	Out now

VERDICT:
A competent, and occasionally enjoyable, adventure game.

OVERALL SCORE
68%

GRAPHICS: 7 out of 10
Pleasantly drawn. Perfectly acceptable. Nice.

SOUND: 6 out of 10
'Atmospheric' track. Appropriate spot effects.

ADDICTION: 5 out of 10
Once completed, you won't play again.

PLAYABILITY: 6 out of 10
Lacks depth for the hardened adventurer.

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PG474 SPACE TAXI Looks like a fun adventure game +Y
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PG479 SOLAR LORDS An adventure game! +Y
PB060 INVENTORY II keep information on Stock & paying wages etc! +Y
PB062 HOME ACCOUNTANT , also contains Loancalc & Home Budget! +Y
PB063 PAY ADVICE ANALYSER V4.2 Latest version of this useful program! +Y
PB064 PROBASE V1.1 Professional looking database! +Y
PE092 NIGHT MATH ATTACK Play while you learn! +Y
PE093 PAINT IT Another colouring pad for kids! +Y
PE094 PICTURE MATHS get 16 sums correct to see the picture! +Y
PE095 WB2 TUTORIAL A useful disk for owners of 500+ & 600 machines! +
PE096 AMIGADOS TUTOR Learn all about your Amiga! +Y
PE097/8 JAPANESE DICTIONARY Learn to speak Japanese. (2)+Y
PE099 WORDPLAY Contains, Wordmaker,Wordanalyse II & more. Super +Y
PE100 TOM'S STORYBOOK traditional storybook on a disk, +Y
PE101 HISTORY OF AVIATION shows the evolution of flight! +Y
PE102 SPECK & SPELL MATHS an educational quiz game with speech! +Y
PE103 LEARN IN SPACE Learn to add & subtract, for 4-7 year olds! +Y
PE104 MATHS MASTER Simple adventure maths game! +Y
PE105 10 OUT OF 10 MATHS 6 educational games Very good. +Y
PE106 COUNT & SPELL Counting fun & Eraserspell,Quite good. +Y
PE107 D - DAY Book about the D-Day landings! +Y

LATEST ADDITIONS!

PP190/6 TRIP IN A VEIN Super Microcosm type anim,needs 5 mg (7)AGA only
PP197 REVENGE ANIMATION
PP198 GOLFERS GUIDE ANIM A very strange golf animation? 2mg +Y
PP199 TEAPOT & LAMP ANIM Quite an original anim! +Y 2mg
PP200 PORSCHE ANIM A revolving car anim! +Y
PP201 CLOCK ANIM A dancing clock? +Y
PP202 COASTER & 2BALL ANIMS This also needs 2mg! +Y
PP203 CDROM & FIRERING ANIMS CD advert & a ring of fire, best AGA 2mg.
PP204 SHIP & FLAG ANIMS Torpedoed ship & flag in wind, 2mg+Y
PM255/6 BLUES SYMPHONIE 9 exellent pieces of music on a 2 disk set!(2)+Y
PM257/62 FRIENDS OF PAULA 1-6 Exellent Octamed collection! (6) +Y
PM264 CREATURES OF THE MIND A superave disk +Y
PT133/37 MORTAL GODS RAVE SAMPLES 5 disks full of fun samples(5) +Y
PT138 DELUXE MUSIC DATA DISK More tunes to load into Deluxe music! +Y
PT139 GUITAR TUNER Allows you to tune your guitar with the Amiga! +
PT140/1 EAGLEPLAYER V1.52 comprehensive music player. Superb (2) +Y
PT143 DX7 EDITOR & SYNTH LIBRARIAN for the famous Yamaha DX7 synth. +Y
PT144 MIDIPLAY V2.21a Latest version, plays midifiles on any synth. +Y
PT145/151 SFX1-7 Seven disks full of samples for every occasion!(7)+Y
PT153 JCB SAMPLES Classical, Blues & Jazz music samples! +Y
PT154 BASS SYNTH SAMPLES Some more good samples! +Y
PT155 GUITAR CHORD DIRECTORY Hundreds of chords to learn! +Y
PT156 NO SAMPLER 3 Contains Supersound 3,TREG Wondersound etc! +Y
PS184/5 SYNTEX SCAN IS LAME Superb hires AGA pics, 1200/4000 only! (2) Y
PS193/4 GIRLS OF ERIC Exellent Eric Schwartz characters slide. (2) +Y
PS197/8 MANGA PICS 2 disks of good pictures! (2) +Y
PD273 CCCP DEMO A rave music type demo!+Y
PD274 SCALA NOT AGAIN! Some good effects on this one. 1200 only
PD276 POLKA BROTHERS GEVALIA A nice demo,though not AGA ! +Y
PD277 REDNEX QUACKBUSTED II Crazy demo! +Y
PD278 POLKA BROTHERS FRIDAY AT EIGHT Good! +Y
PD279 OXYGENE CUZCO Quite a good quality demo! +Y
PD280 MYSTIC DIRT AGA This is a good AGA demo! Y 1200 only.
PU616 MAINACTOR Animation conversion program, good +Y
PU617/20 GFX UTILITY MIX# 1-4 Full of good useful utils,(4) +Y
PU621 ASI MAGIC ICONS2 Contains Iconmiser, Mricons etc! +Y
PU623 ASI DISK HELPER 3 Third in the series, packed! +Y
PU624 VIDEOMAXE 4.33 Database system for all of your videotapes! +Y
PU625 SNOOPDOS 3 Latest version, much enhanced! +Y
PU626 COMPTECH BACKGROUNDS Superb 256 colour backgrounds! Y
PU627 AMIGA FAX V1.4 Very useful software if you have a faxmodem! +Y
PU628/30 TERM v4.0 The latest version of Term on 3 disks(3) +Y
PU631/2 MOVIEGUIDE Awesome database on over 14000movies, (2)+Y
PU633 AMICOM 2.1 A packet radio terminal program! +Y
PU634 PRODRAW GENIES Lots of very useful genies for Prodraw! +Y
PU635 VIRUS WORKSHOP V4.0 A good collection of antivirus software+Y
PU636/41 UNKNOWN 6 disks full of UFOs Abductions etc (6) +Y
PU642 CALORIE COUNTER & RECIPE BOX 2 diet programs! +Y
PU644 GOLF GURU A comprehensive golf scoring program! +Y
PU645 TELE SUBTITLE A Subtitling program for the Amiga! +Y
PU646 DESKTOP MAGIC Nice screen saver program! +Y
PU647 RELOKICK 1.41 Yet another version of this degrader! +Y
PU650 VIDEOBASE & VIDEODAT Two video database programs! +Y
PU652 AMIGA SYSTEM CHECKERS TOOLBOX check your system!+Y
PU654 APPLE II EMULATOR Emulates Apple II,needs Apple rom! +Y
PU656 FRACTINT 68020 Version ported from MS DOS machines! Y
PU657 LOCK OUT v2.1c Hard drive system security! +Y

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PU174 ASTRO 22 professional astrology now V3.5! +Y
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PU212 PERM CHECK PLUS a pools prediction prog Y
PU213 RACE RATER Another horse racing program!! +Y
PU238 M.O.R.C.V2 rune caster,new 1 disk version!+Y
PU354 ASTRONOMY v2 calculate info on solar system! +Y
PU362 STARVIEW Gives view of star for given time etc!+Y
PU363 FORCASTER Horse racing prediction program! +Y
PU364 COURSE FORM Simple horse racing prediction!+Y
PU375 POOLS TOOLS2 3 pools related programs!+Y
PU377 MING SHU Simple astrological program! +Y
PU454/5 THE HUMAN AURA Interesting book! (2) +Y
PU456 THE MYSTERIES OF RUNES all the signs. +Y
PU473/4 STRANGE Abductions,UFOs corn circles etc (2) +Y
PU482 DIVIDEND WINNER Pools prediction aid ! +Y
PU485 WITCHES COOKBOOK Turn mum into a newt! +Y
PU486 THEORY & PRACTICE OF MAGIC Fun only! +Y
PU487/8 PARANORMAL INVESTIGATIONS Weird! (2) +Y
PU497 RUNEMASTER Become familiar with the runes. +Y
PU506 I CHING Learn all about the Oracle! +Y

DEMOS

PD068 PHENOMENA ENIGMA Absolutely brilliant! +Y
PD130/34 ALCATRAZ ODDESSY Awesome!! Ok on 500+!
PD182 SPACEBALL Absolutely brill,needs 1meg chip!+Y
PD185/6 ANDROMEDA MIRROR Fab Music & Graphics!+Y
PD187 HOY AGA DEMO 1st 1200 demo,a must! 1200 ONLY
PD188 SANITY WORLD OF COMMODORE Super demo+Y
PD189/90 SILENTS DEMON DOWNLOAD Fab demo! (2) +Y
PD202 TECHNOLOGICAL DEATH Freaky techno rave +Y
PD206 MELON HOW TO SKIN A CAT Nice effects! +Y
PD215 FAIRLIGHT 242 Unusual & interesting demo! +Y
PD216/7 A TRIP TO DEEP BASS A must have rave demo!+Y
PD218 VIVID ABSTRAX PIG AGA Mega colourful1200 ONLY.
PD221 POINT OF SALE Best AGA yet!! 1200 ONLY
PD223/4 SPACEBALLS 9 FINGERS This is MEGA!!!(2) +Y
PD225 XANADU DEMO Superb colourful AGA only demo! Y
PD226 GROOVY by Lemon,super graphics demo! +Y
PD227 IMPACT NO LEM Super kaliedoscope effects. +Y
PD228 SILENTS SOZZLED SOMERSAULT Fab effects! +Y
PD233 PERSPEX HYPNOSIS dancing silhouettes AGA only!
PD235 AGATHA Nice effects & colours. 1200 only.
PD240 VOLCANO New AGA megademo. 1200 only
PD241 IT SMELLS LIKE CHANEL no5 Great! 1200 only!
PD243 FULL MOON AGA Nice demo 1200 only
PD244 BEYOND BELIEF AGA Nice music +pics1200 only
PD245 SANITY ARTE A Superb demo for all systems+Y
PD246 ABSTRACT SUBTLE SHADES Good demo!+Y
PD248 FLYING COWS PRO SIAK Good needs fast mem+
PD249 KEFRENS INTERCHANGE Nice 1200 only
PD252/3 BIG TIME SENSUALITY A SUPERB Aga demo! (2) Y
PD256 EXODUS ON LAND A MUST have! 1.5mg chip+Y
PD257 ANDROMEDA SEQUENTIAL Nice crew demo! +Y
PD258 FATAL MORGANA Exellent with Beavis & Butthead! Y
PD259/60 QED 2 By Talent New AGA,great effects(2)1200 only
PD261 ETERNITY A nice AGA intro 1200 only.
PD264/5 LOVE Superb quality demo ,AGA only! (2) Y
PD266 BILL'S COLOUR CYCLING pics,with parameters. +Y
PD267 COMPLEX REAL Super AGA demo must have!1200 only.
PD268 SOME JUSTICE AGA Urban Shakedown music!1200 only.
PD270 PEE MEE COMPLEX AGA sprite scaling & ray traced

XMAS SOFTWARE!

PG351 XMASTIME Nice festive platform game!+Y
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PA143 XMAS ANIMATION Very seasonal +Y
PM208 CHRISTMAS TUNES Medley with modern beat!+Y
PM209 LSD XMAS PACK Great selection of xmas tunes+Y
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PU585 Deusex-Engraver LT.
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PU587 Flora-Frutiger.
PU588 Frutiger-Futura.
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PU594 Lichtner-Manzanita.
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PU596 Metroliner-Newbold.
PU597 Newbrunswick-Novaresebd.
PU598 NovareseBDIT-Olympia.
PU599 Omnibus-PeignotLight.
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Professional Clipart for DTP.



CLASSIC CLIPART

(Black & White) (Okay on A1200 / A4000.)
The clipart in this collection is very high quality, huge bitmaps, many greater than an Amiga hires screen, for use in Dpaint or DTP packages, each disk autoboots as a slideshow allowing you to view the entire bitmap by moving the mouse! (Prices per disk!)

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ART02 HOUSES 2 disks, pictures of mansions etc!+
ART03 RELIGIOUS 3 disks full of holy clipart!+
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ART05 MEN 2 disks full of men at work!+
ART06 WOMEN 2 disks full of women clips!+
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ART09 OFFICE Another office type disk!+
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ART16 SILHOUETTES 18 super silhouettes!+
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ART18 BABIES Clipart on a baby theme!+
ART19 SPORT 2 disks full of sport pictures!+
ART20 OLYMPIC Another sport type disk!+
ART21 MEDICAL 2 disks full of medical clipart!+
ART22 SEALIFE Pictures from the Ocean!+
ART23 DECORATIVE MONTHS 1 for every month+
ART24 WACKY Funny comic type clipart!+
ART25 HOLIDAYS Holiday type pictures!+
ART26 BANNERS 2 disks full of banners!+
ART27 ART NOUVEAU FLOWERS Floral art!+
ART28 BUTTERFLIES Nice pictures!+
ART29 FOOD 2 disks on a food/kitchen theme!+
ART30 COLOURING BOOK Colour in Dpaint!+
ART31 BORDERS 2 disks, must load into DTP!+
ART32 MAC CLIP 2 disks high quality macart!+
ART33 HORNBACK Nice scenic clipart!+
ART34 TEDDY BEARS 2 disks of Teddy bears!+
ART35 VANITY FARE 2 disks fashion clipart!+
ART36 HALLOWEEN CLIPART Wierd clipart!+
ART37 SHOWTIME Dancing, singing etc!+
ART38 VEGGIES Vegetarian clipart!+
ART39 FLORAL 14 very detailed pictures!+
ART40 MYTHS Mythical images + zodiac!+
ART41 DOG WOODCUTS Super 300dpi pics!+
ART42 CAT WOODCUTS Great wildcat pics!+
ART43 AFRICAN WOODCUTS African animals!+
ART44 AMERICAN WOODCUTS More animals!+
ART45 ARTIC WOODCUTS Northern animals!+
ART46 FARM WOODCUTS Farm animals!+
ART47 MIXED ANIMAL WOODCUTS Nice pics!+
ART48 BIRDS WOODCUTS 18th century bird pics+
ART49 MORE ANIMALS More superb pictures!+
ART50 ANIMAL LINEART Varied selection of pics
ART51 BOTANICAL ART detailed plant pics!+
ART52 FAMILY SCENES 2 disks of domestic life!+
ART53 GOLF HUMOUR 2 amusing cartoon disks!+
ART54 SPACE & TRANSPORT On a space theme!+
ART55 SOFTSCENE2 29 rural scenery pictures!+
ART56 SPORTS3 More pics on a sports theme!+
ART57 NAVY Lots of naval type pictures!+
ART58 TRAVEL 2 disks on a travel theme!+
ART59 ALPHABET Borders & alphabet clips!+(2)
ART60 ACCENTS & FLASHES Burst stars+ more+
ART61 FISH Lots of aquatic pictures! +Y
ART62 SOFTSCENE 3 More nice scenery pictures! +Y
ART63 RESTAURANT 3 disks of Restaurant pictures(3)Y
ART64 MORE HOLIDAYS Festive holiday pictures! +Y
ART65 ANIM & BIRD 44 nice pictures! +Y
ART66 MOSSBURN ANIMALS 32 nice animal pictures! +Y
ART67 BURCHFIELD KIDS Some nice kids clipart! +Y
ART68 BEAST & MYTH 3 disks of Monsters,demons etc!(3)+Y
ART69 TRANSPORT 3 disks of Cars,Airplanes Ships etc!(3)+Y
ART70 TRUCKS & TRAINS Full of Wagons trains etc! +Y
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ART72 AIRCRAFT 3 disks full of aircraft pictures!(3) +Y
ART73 BIRDS Songbirds, Birds of Prey & more! +Y
ART74 DOGS Disks full of good dog pictures! +Y
ART75 HOUSES CASTLES & BUILDINGS Good pics +Y
ART76 SPORTS-MAC Lots of good sports pictures! +Y
ART77 GARDEN Lots of horticultural pictures.(5) +Y
ART78 MILITARY 10 disks of military clipart! (10) +Y
ART79 HOFFMAN GRAPHICS Nice pictures! +Y
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ART81 FARM & HORSES Nice pastoral pictures! +Y
ART82 SHIPS Sailing & Steam ships! +Y
ART83 ANATOMY 2 disks of huge skulls skeletons etc!+Y
ART84 CAMPING On an outdoor theme! +Y
ART85 WILDLIFE 3 disks full of wildlife clips(3)+Y
ART86 MARINE & NAUTICAL To do with sea life!+Y

COLOURED CLIPART

This is a superb collection of coloured clipart, mostly in Ham mode (4096 colours), though some is in 16 colours. Can be loaded into Deluxe Paint 4 or any other package accepting Ham pictures! (OK on 500, 500+, 600, 1200 & 4000!)

CCL001/10 MAPS, Afganistan-Zambezi, autoboots!(10) + Y
CCL011 REPTILES, good pictures, autoboots! +Y
CCL012/3 ACTORS, famous faces, autoboots! +Y(2)
CCL015/6 AIRCRAFT & CARS assorted, autoboots! +Y
CCL018/26 BIRDS 8 disks, Super, autoboots! +Y
CCL027 CATS, 1-16 Super cat pics,autoboots! +Y
CCL028/35 DOGS, 1-126 Super dog pics,8 disks! +Y
CCL036 EXPLORERS 1-13 famous explorers,autoboots+y
CCL037/40 FISH 1-92 Super pics pictures,(4 disks)+y
CCL041/51 FlOWERS 11 disks of flowers! (11 disks)
CCL052+4 FRUIT 2 disks, Good pics! (2)autoboots! +Y
CCL055 FRONTIER 1-13 Pioneer pictures,autoboots
CCL056/7 HORSES 1-16 Great horse pics,autoboots!(2) +Y
CCL058/61 INSECTS Small creatures!(4 disks) +Y
CCL062/3 INVENTORS 2 disks full (2) +Y
CCL064/71 MAMMALS More animals pictures(8 disks)+Y
CCL072/3 INSTRUMENTS 4-25 Musical (2 disks) +Y
CCL074 MILITARY 7-17,& MUSICIANS 1-4! +Y
CCL075 MUSICIANS 9 -21 Classical! autoboots! +Y
CCL076/7 PREHISTORIC Dinosaurs!(2) autoboots! +Y
CCL078/81 PEOPLE Lots of people! (4 disks)+YY
CCL082/4 PRESIDENTS 1-40 USA presidents,3 disks +Y
CCL085/7 REPTILES 1-19 Good pics (3) autoboots! +Y
CCL088 SHIPS 10-33 Marine vessels! +Y
CCL089 SPORTSMEN. Various sportsmen,autoboots! +Y
CCL091/6 TREES, 6 disks of tree pictures! autoboots! +Y
CCL097/100 VEGETABLES 1-48 goodpics4disks,wb+y

COLOURED BRUSHES

Saved as brushes so they can be pulled easily into Dpaint!

CB001 Lots of brushes on an art & schoolwork theme. +Y
CB002 Lots of brushes of stores food,garden home & more! +Y
CB003 Lots of brushes on a sporting theme (142 brushes) +Y
CB004 Lots of brushes on a food & confectionary theme! +Y
CB005 Lots of brushes, 155 pics on a financial theme. +Y
CB006 Lots of brushes of cute cartoon caracters! +Y
CB007 Loads of useful colour clipart,lo, med & hi res! +Y
CB008 More coloured clips on an educational theme! +Y

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CLE51 PAINT PASTE & DRAW

CLE54 TITANIC

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CLE09 WORDS & LADDERS	1 disk 3.95.+
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CLE11 LET'S LEARN	1 disk 3.95. +
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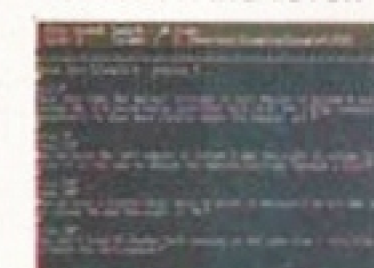
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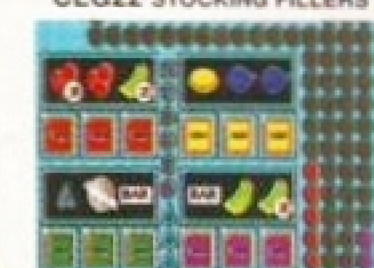
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This advert was produced on a 14meg Amiga 4000 using Professional Page! The Amiga is all you need to produce professional DTP!

With a bellowing roar and a few verses of *Hakuna Matata*, Steve Jarratt pounces on Virgin's *Aladdin*-alike and wonders how something so cute can be such a pain in the...

The Lion King



One of the game's saving graces are the restart points (the curious little radioactive lion cub logo). Unfortunately, Virgin used them all up in the first level, and they're mercilessly sparse later on.



With a sufficiently hefty punt, even a weighty lion cub like Simba can be kicked quite a long way up into the air.

The Disney animation studios have at last stepped, Mad Max-like, from the howling desert of their wilderness years. First with *The Little Mermaid*, then *Aladdin* and now with the rip-roaring *Lion King*.

And, sure enough, where 'ere Disney go, Virgin are sure to follow. Like the Amiga version of *Aladdin, The Lion King* is a platform game. Like *Aladdin, The Lion King* features stupendous Disney animation. Like *Aladdin, The Lion King* boasts sprawling, colourful levels. Unlike *Aladdin, The Lion King* isn't terribly good fun...

Aladdin was a spritely young fellah who could perform leaps and swings with acrobatic aplomb. Little Simba, on the other hand, is a chubby, floppy-pawed lion cub with all the airborne grace of a sodden sponge. The collision detection is also terribly vague, whether you're trying to pounce on a lizard or seek out a platform edge. These factors conspire to make *The Lion King* a really frustrating little game. Instead of romping through the levels, reacting instinctively to hazards as they appear, you have to tip-toe along as if every step might be your last, wary of impending doom.

Hyenas, vultures and panthers always seem to attack when you're in an enclosed space, making defensive manoeuvres (like 'jumping out of the way') more difficult than they ought to be. Aladdin did at least have a

THE LION KING: LOST STAGES



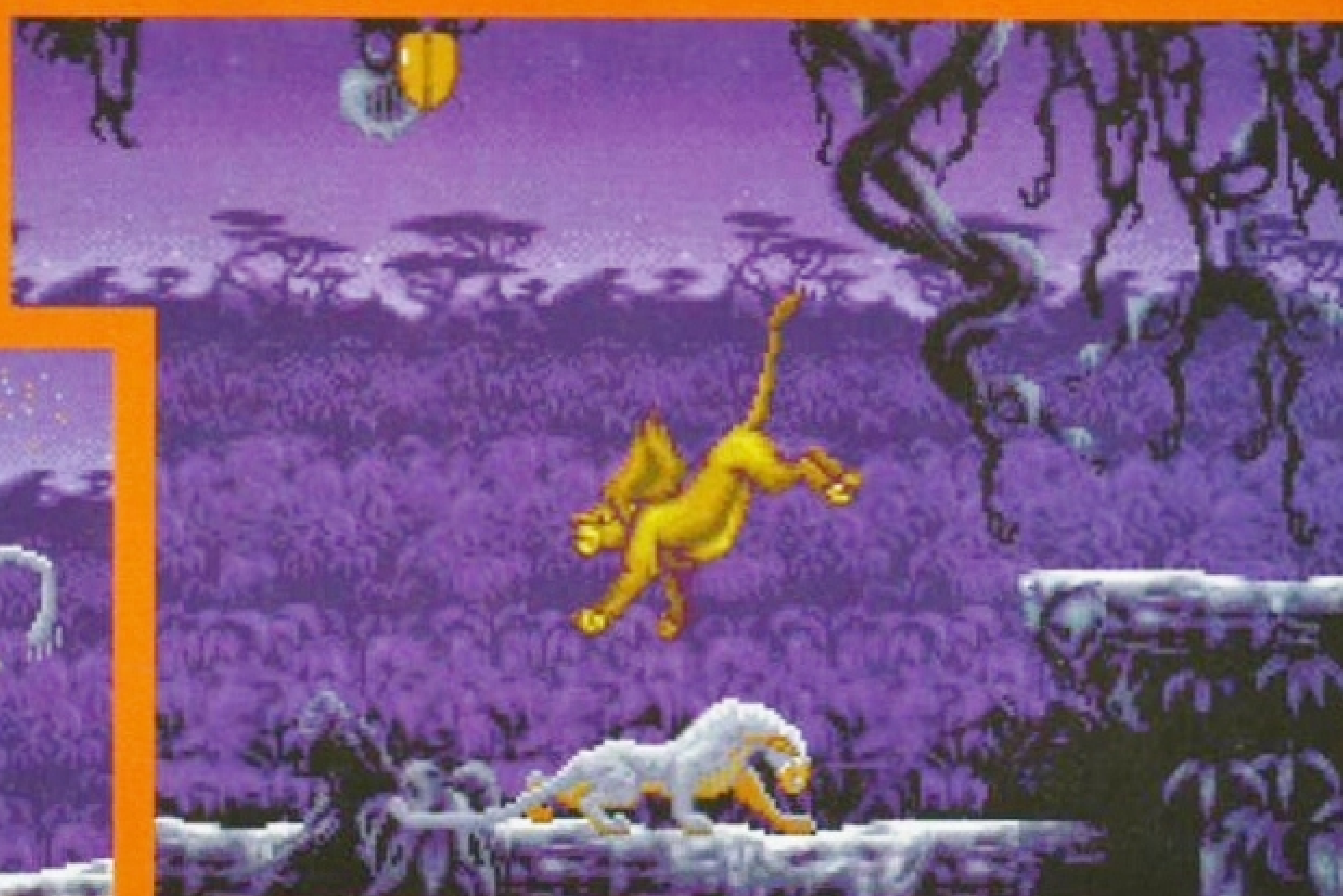
Like *Aladdin* and the forthcoming *Jungle Book*, Virgin's *The Lion King* is a conversion of the Mega Drive game. But, sadly, *The Lion King* has not survived the journey intact. Mega Drive players were treated to nine levels, whereas we get a paltry seven (plus two bonus).

Somewhere along the way levels Can't Wait To Be King and Hakuna Matata have been lost. Which is a shame because they both sound really jolly: Can't Wait features Simba bouncing off rhinos' heads into the trees and riding an ostrich (pictured above), while in Hakuna Simba traverses a waterfall on logs while dodging some itinerant gorilla's coconuts.

So why the omission? Well, it would appear that Virgin simply ran out of time prior to getting the game out ready for the yuletide shopping season. Doh!

SIMBA – THE FLYIN' KING

Simba the elder takes a flying leap on to an unsuspecting hyena (right). In the ensuing scrap, however, the two earn their enemy's grudging respect and end up doing *The Twist* together (inset).





SIMBA'S STUNTS – THE ANIMATED ANTICS OF A LION CUB


Simba watches the butterflies flutter by with that look of wonderment only the young and innocent can muster. And idiots.


If Simba only just manages to make a jump, he clings precariously to the edge for a second and then scrambles his way up.


Like all big, grown-up lions, Simba is well versed in the stealthy hunched-down-ready-to-pounce manoeuvre.


In a temporary gravity-defying move, Simba launches himself skywards. This is known as 'jumping'.


In a numbing recreation of the harsh battle for survival, Simba jumps upon a lizard causing it to... er... explode.


Swelling his chest, the mighty Simba lets rip with an ear-splitting call which rumbles across the veldt... 'Miaow' he goes.


Like all young cubs (except those with woggles and first-aid badges) Simba can curl up and tumble along the ground.


By rapidly positioning alternate paws in front of one another, Simba breaks into what is technically described as a 'run'.


The victim of a juvenile 'running across the path of stampeding wildebeest' dare, Simba finds himself about to get a 'reet hoofing' as you might say.


Climactic encounter. Simba fights uncle Scar. Simba wins. Game ends. There, that's ruined it. Now you can go and buy *Aladdin* instead.

■ Simba is a floppy-pawed lion cub with all the airborne grace of a sodden sponge.

flashing scimitar with which to despatch his foe; poor Simba has little more than the ability to land on things, plus a weedy roar which does little but scare porcupines upside-down, enabling him to squash them. A reasonable mode of attack, admittedly, since a 75lb lion cub is more than a match for the soft underbelly of any quilled creature. But if you're a pixel too far either side when making your jump, instead of flattening said up-turned porcupine you end up getting pricked and losing a swatch of energy.

Rocks and hard places

Later stages (which I've had the good fortune of sampling) are equally tricky and even more frustrating.

Level four – Simba's Exile – sees the young cub traversing a rocky landscape littered with tricky platform jumps. Like in *Aladdin*, Simba very often only just spans the gap, and is left clinging to the edge, scrambling for a few seconds before clawing his way to safety. On this level, though, Simba also has to contend with rocks which plummet down the screen.

But not at random, oh no. They fall wherever Simba happens to be – and if he's in mid-platform-edge-scramble, then he inevitably receives a rock blow to his furry cranium. And it's not your fault: you just can't interrupt the animation sequence.

I'm not saying the game should be made easier – otherwise you'd finish it in one sitting – but it could have been a damn sight friendlier. Considering the age of those who might want to join Simba on his travels, the play mechanics don't seem to be particularly well judged.

Buy it, if you must, but don't expect too much in the way of Hakuna Matata.

The Lion King

Publisher:	Virgin Interactive Entertainment 0171 960 2255
Price:	£29.99
Versions:	A1200
System requirements:	2Mb
Release date:	Out now

VERDICT:
All the sumptuous style of *Aladdin*; none of the great gameplay, sadly.

OVERALL SCORE
69%

GRAPHICS: 8 out of 10
Lush animation. Surprisingly jerky scrolling.

SOUND: 6 out of 10
I liked the music; others didn't. OK effects.

ADDICTION: 6 out of 10
You'll stick at it... until frustration takes over.

PLAYABILITY: 5 out of 10
Finnicky to control and just not much fun.

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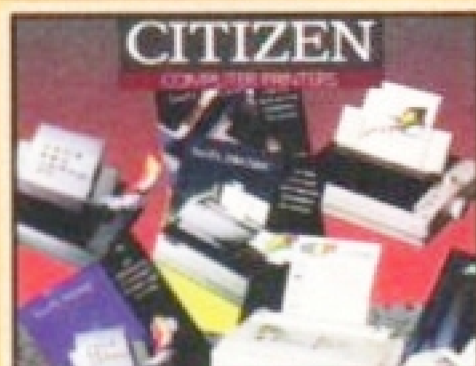
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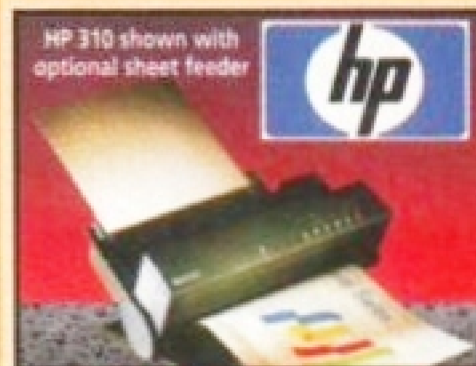
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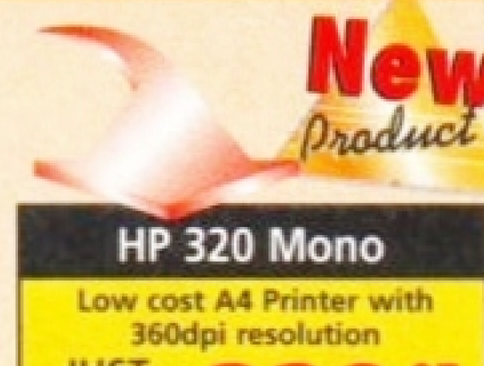
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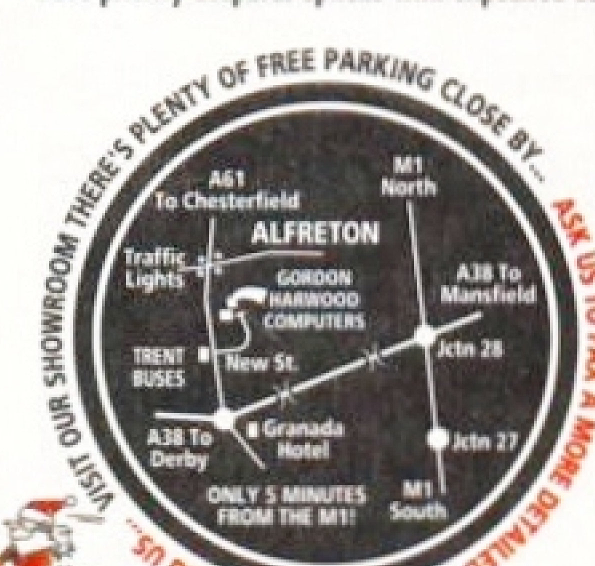
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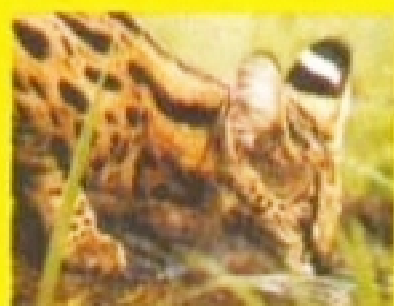
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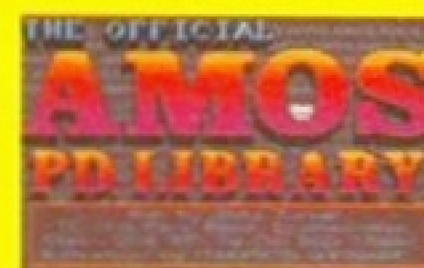
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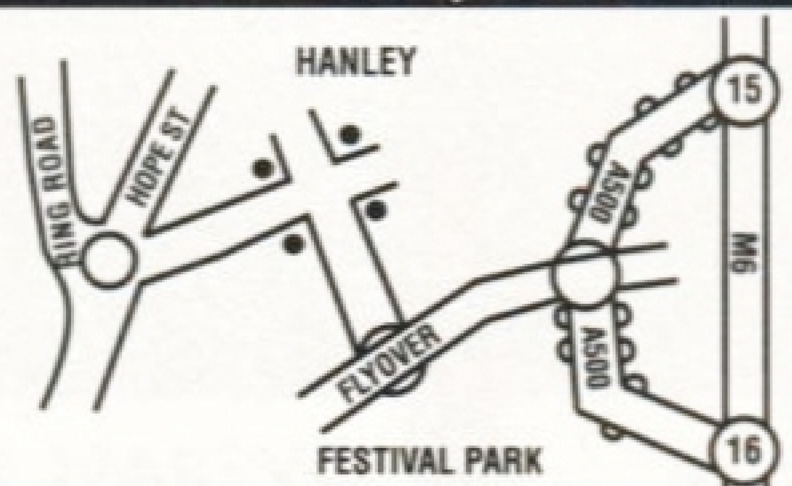
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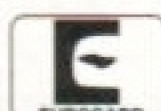
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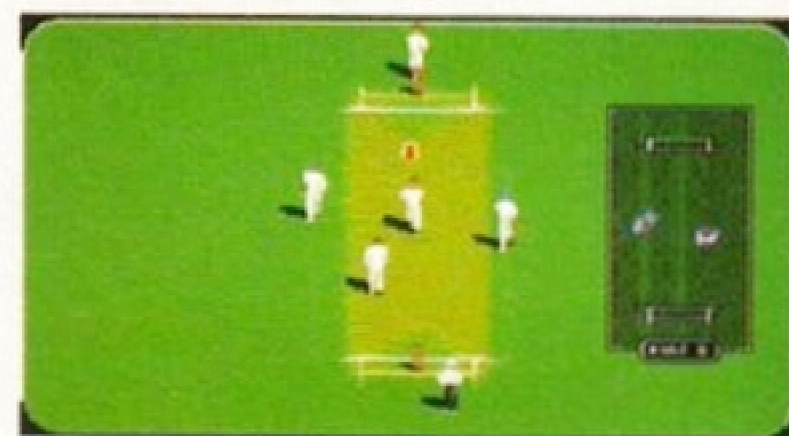




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Battle For The Ashes


Whipping off his bails was easier than slicing through butter with a hot knife.


Heads we play cricket, tails we play England.


In 1970, a 10 pence piece was known as two bob. Not a lot of people in the cricketing world know that.



Both players are put through a test of nerve, reactions and judgement.

Pace, aggression, stamina, dexterity, sharpness and judgement are all required of anyone wanting to play that most dangerous and exciting of white trouser-clad games – cricket.

Since the inception of *Graham Gooch Cricket* into the Amiga market, the cricket simulation sector was wrapped up. Nothing else could compete against it in terms of feel, play mechanics, statistical accuracy and fun.

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The players that made up each team were up to date with their performances in the real world too. Batting averages, bowling averages and fielding averages were all taken care of and it meant that, rather than feel that you were playing an arbitrary computer game, you felt involved with current cricketing events.

Further improving on most of the cricket sims that had gone before it, *Graham Gooch Cricket* offered a first person perspective view of the wicket – the part of the field where most of the action takes place, apparently.

Fielders could be positioned according to the preferences and idiosyncrasies of the type of bowlers used and the ability of the batsman at defending the wicket. These positions could be swapped around if fine tuning was required. All in all it contributed to the feeling that *Graham Gooch Cricket* was a sim rather than just a game. You could edit all the names of the players too.

And, just like real cricket, the batsman's job came down to positioning, reactions, timing and instinct. And just in case you were wondering, eight different types of shot could be played depending on the type of ball being fired in by the bowler.

The embarrassing part of all this of course was the inclusion of the wiggle waggle factor, both for increasing the amount of spin or pace of the bowler and the speed that the fielders ran between the wickets. Not only did it decrease the lifespan of your joystick drastically, it also lead to an undeserved reputation if people weren't aware of what you were doing.

In the googlies

Anyway, that was *Graham Gooch Cricket* which we awarded 78% in *AF47*. Not *Battle For The Ashes*. So why have we spent the whole of this review referring to it?

Well, *Battle For The Ashes* is *Graham Gooch Cricket* with its wings clipped – because in *Battle* you can only play a five-day Test match between England and Australia and you can't edit the teams.

But on the plus side, *Battle For The Ashes* will only set you back a tenner and it can be upgraded with a 94/95 data disk.

So, there's no longer any excuse not to involve yourself in the heady world of willow and leather spanking. Bowl yourself a googly today.

GRAPHICS: 7 out of 10
Functional, if not aesthetic.

SOUND: 5 out of 10
The cheesiest music you'll ever hear.

ADDICTION: 7 out of 10
It's Test match-only, which wears you down.

PLAYABILITY: 8 out of 10
Great, if you like waggling your joystick.

Battle For The Ashes

Publisher:	Audiogenic 0181-424 2244
Price:	£9.99
Versions:	A500/A600/A1200
System requirements:	1Mb
Release date:	Out now

VERDICT:
It's not bad at the price, but it reeks of blatant cashing in.

OVERALL SCORE
70%

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Steve Bradley dons his Leeds United strip, firmly ties his bootlaces and leisurely strolls on to the pitch. But is he on the winning side?

Kick Off 3 EC



A handy practice option offers you the chance to knock the ball over the wall on free kicks. Unfortunately, the wall looks about a foot tall, making the task rather simple.



Occasionally, a goal is celebrated with the scorer sliding on his knees towards the crowd – an offence these days.

Way back in the Summer of '94, at the height of World Cup fever, *Kick Off 3* was released to a somewhat mixed reception. Despite the plethora of other football games hitting the shelves at that time, the strength of the *Kick Off* name ensured that it would be a high profile release. Anco, obviously deciding that Sensible Software had the top-down view perspective game firmly sewn up, opted for a sideways-viewed pitch and the results were, while aesthetically pleasing, rather patchy.

Kick Off 3 returns, this time wearing the cap of *European Challenge*, the package including five countries' premier sides and a miscellaneous bunch from a variety of others. Oh, and 24 international teams, too, as well as league and pre-set cup competitions. Again, Anco in their wisdom are releasing a game when the competition is at its strongest – this time, nicely coinciding with *Sensible World Of Soccer*'s airing.

So, what's new? Well, the overriding feeling is that of a game which has undergone minor tweaking and not much else. The players now sport a delightful ring around them when in possession of the ball, they appear to move with more fluidity than their predecessors, yet their behaviour remains as erratic as ever.

A scene: ball rolls off toward corner flag with not a player in sight. Desperately, you keep your thumb on the pad/stick, in the vain hope that one of your men will scurry after the ball, and while this only takes seconds, it seems an age. In general, the game lacks polish – who is this team that plays in England called City? And why can't they get the colour of the kits right?

Team work

Interestingly, one of the options is the Team Talk. During the game, you can pause the action and offer the lads advice. One suggestion is that they 'sit on it', while others include, 'get stuck in' and, 'relax'. Quite how their behaviour is affected remains unclear. Must be me, I guess. Alan Hudson sat on the ball on his England debut against the Germans – my lads were not so controversial.



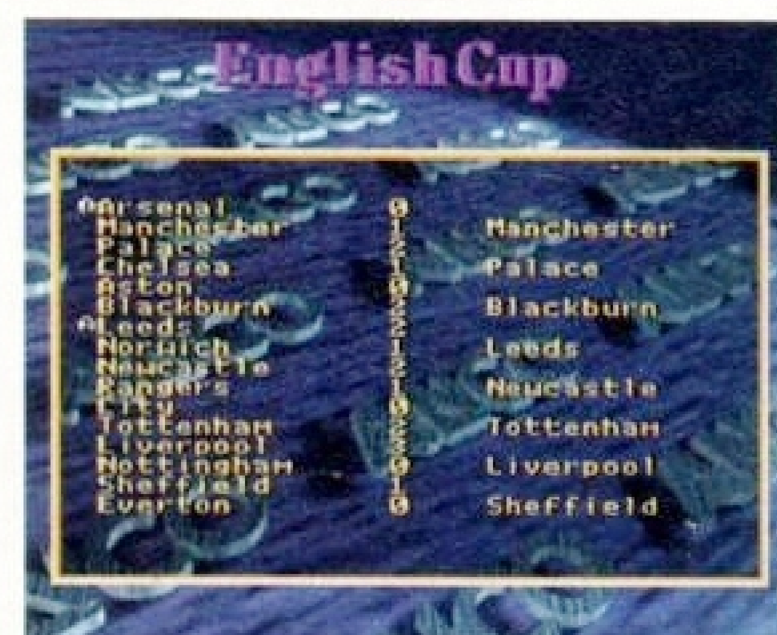
An Italian friendly between Fiorentina and Juventus. Interestingly, Anco spell Juventus, Yuventus. Charming.



There seem to be a few choices missing here. What about throw a teacup, verbally abuse the referee, give the away fans a 'Harvey Smith'?

Graphically, it's a pretty affair. The sprites are huge and well-animated – one major plus point is that the players wear Charlie George-esque sideburns with aplomb, and this is surely the only footer game where every participant bar the goalies sport sweatbands.

But *Kick Off 3* finds itself on a crowded shelf – the competition has wised-up since *Kick Off 2* ruled the Amiga and although this is by no means a bad game, it wavers in the face of *Sensible*, *Empire Soccer* and its direct rival, *FIFA International Soccer*.



There really is no excuse for teams such as Aston and City. Sloppy, Anco. Thankfully, they both got knocked out in the first round.

FIVE MORE TO CHOOSE FROM

1. Sensible World Of Soccer (Renegade)
2. Empire Soccer (Empire)
3. Goal! (Virgin)
4. FIFA International Soccer (Electronic Arts)
5. Manchester Utd PLC (Krisalis)

GRAPHICS: 8 out of 10
The players sport sweatbands. Need I say more?

SOUND: 6 out of 10
Funky soundtrack, but crowd effects are poor.

ADDICTION: 6 out of 10
Ultimately, this is not compulsive fare.

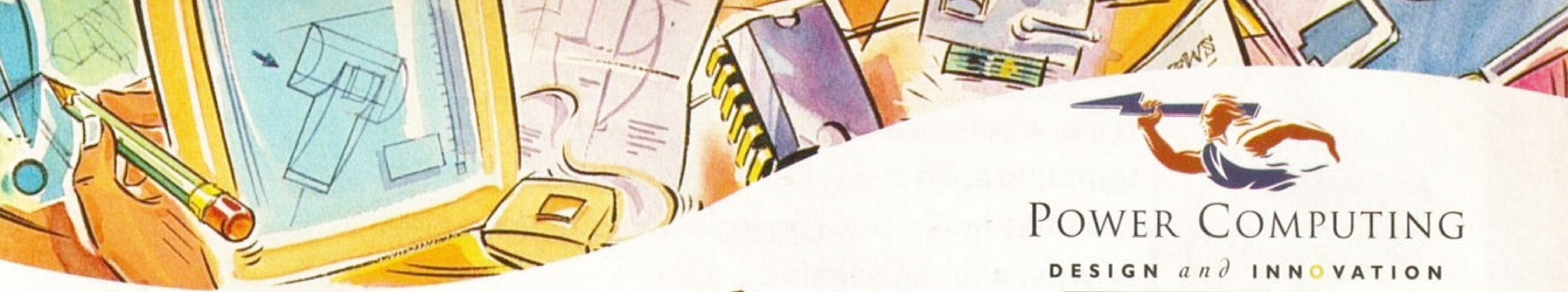
PLAYABILITY: 6 out of 10
Frustrating, but improves as you get better.

Kick Off 3 European Challenge

Publisher:	Anco Software 01332 292513
Price:	£24.99 (A500), £29.99 (A1200)
Versions:	A500/A600/A1200
System requirements:	1Mb (A500)/2Mb (A1200)
Release date:	Out now

VERDICT: A competent, if flawed game. Looks great, but lacks playability.

OVERALL SCORE 64%



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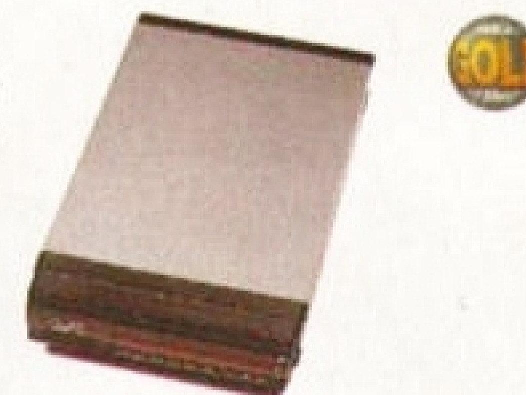
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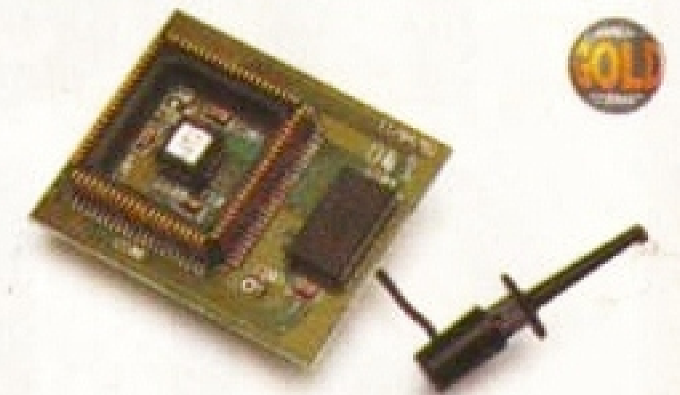
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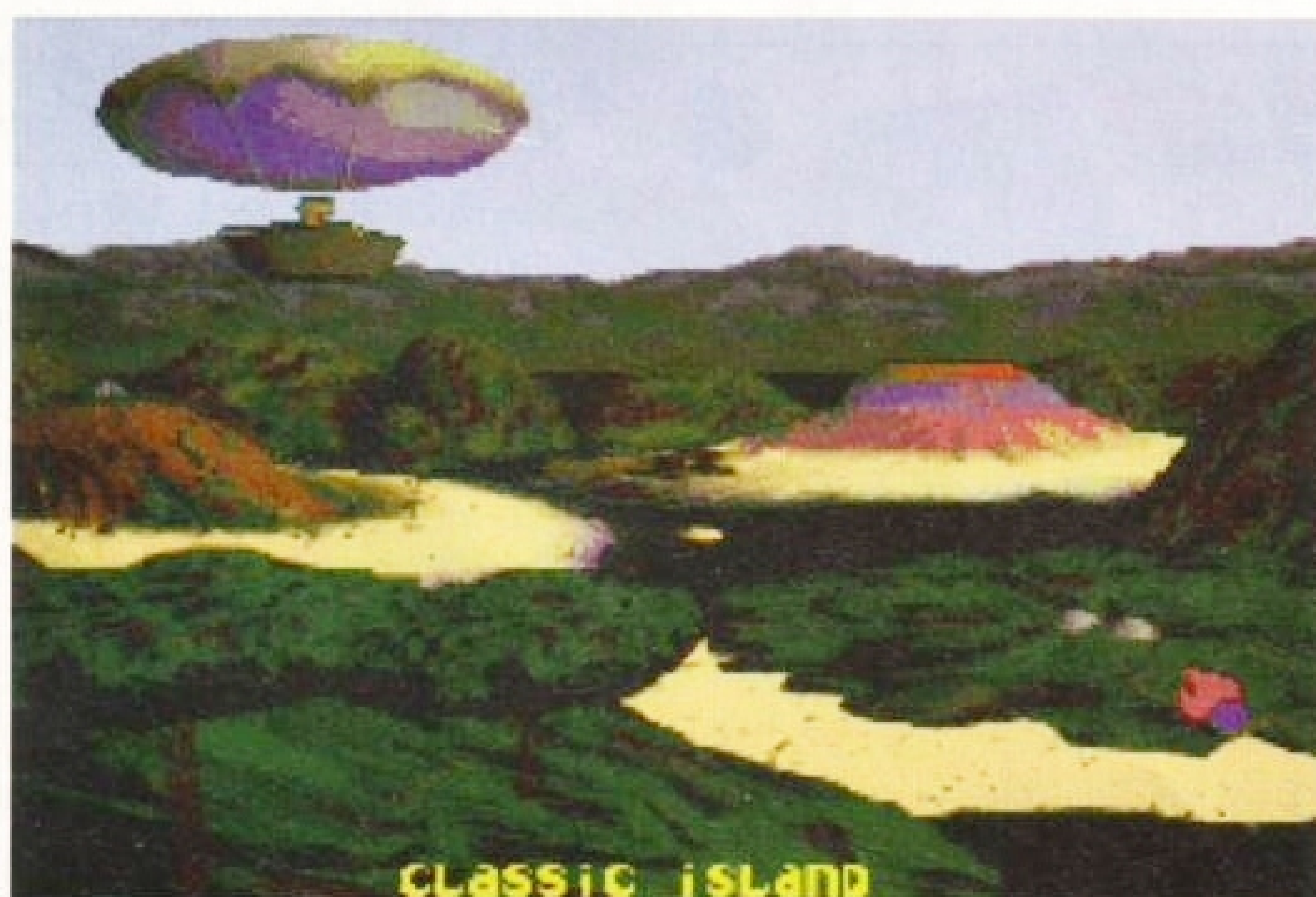


It's a whole new world, and it's full of lemmings. Steve McGill gets to grips with the little fellas but comes second in the battle of wits, skill and timing...

The All New World Of Lemmings

In *Lemmings 2* there were 12 tribes. Here there are only three.





You can choose which land and which tribe of lemmings you want to control either from this screen or from the Ark. Oddly, it's quicker to enter any world from the Ark.

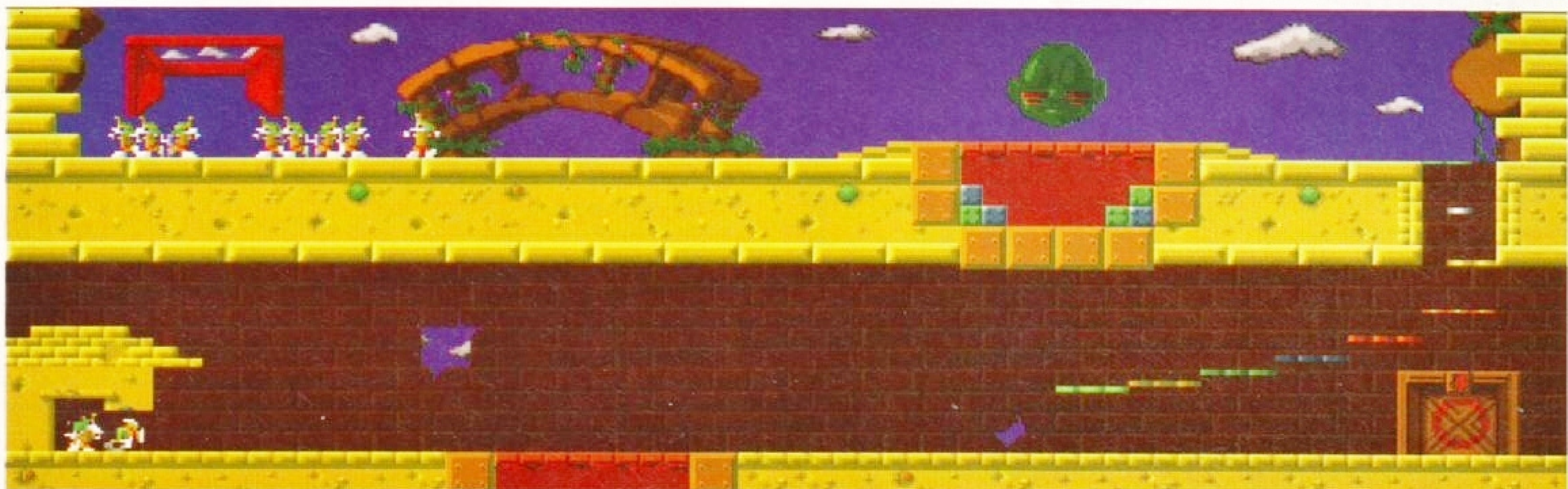
No one Amiga game has made quite such an immeasurable impact on the gameplaying public's imagination as *Lemmings*.The concept of altruistically guiding hundreds of silly little creatures to safety while simple, was completely revolutionary and could only have turned up on a home computer such as the Amiga.

Despite thousands and thousands of converts, myself included, some of the criticisms aimed at the game were pretty relevant and made sense in the way that a fluffed note in an orchestra makes sense – you tend to ignore them because you are too busy listening to and enjoying the harmony of the rest of the symphony.

But now seasoned gamer and novice alike are more versed in the art of game design. Especially Amiga gamers, because over the past six years or so, we've almost had a monopoly share of the very best games on the market.

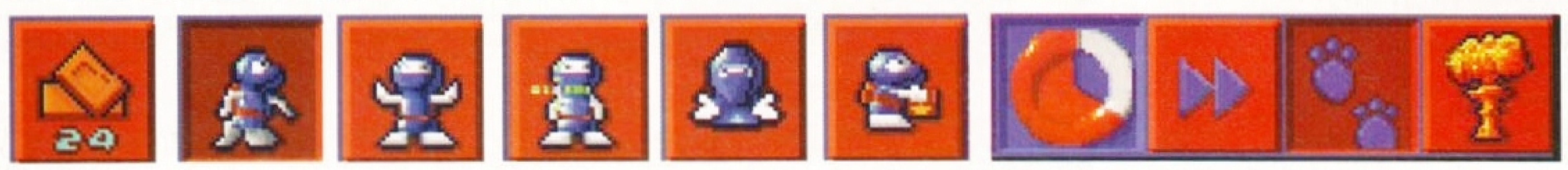
So that's why, if you're a die hard fanatic of *Lemmings*, you might as well ignore everything that's about to follow. It is heresy, and for that crime the writer freely admits that he should be burned at the stake and his ashes cast to the four winds.

For, despite the overall improvement in game mechanics and the inclusion of genuinely nice, though not novel, ideas, *The All New World Of Lemmings* is incredibly, incredibly, incredibly irritating. It can be installed to



Some of the new mechanics that have been implemented in this version of *Lemmings* include the ability to pick up different tools and the like. Here we've just used a pick to help free the prisoners. (Just why the lemmings up above are all meandering around in yellow vests and snorkelling gear remains something of a mystery.)

LEMMINGS ARE NOTHING WITHOUT CONTROL



The different tool types are accessible after your lemming has picked them up. Good idea.

The good thing about this command is the ability to force a change of direction. Very handy.

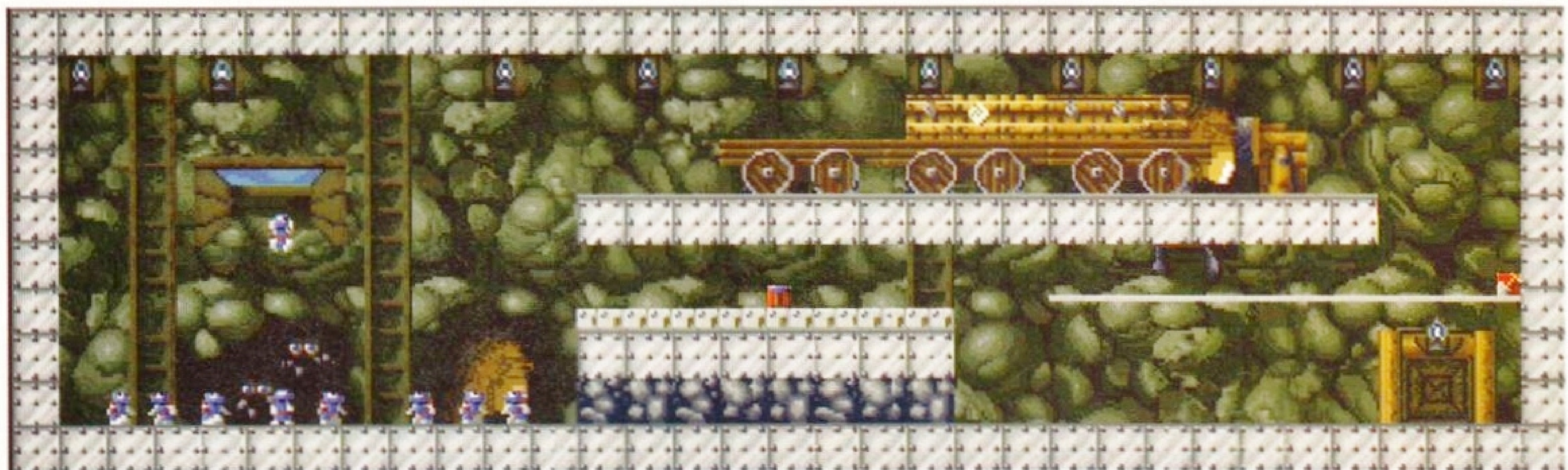
The traditional blocker can now be freed up by using the walker command (see left).

Bit of a strange one this. After it's issued, the lemming jumps over the nearest obstacle.

This is where all the tools that you pick up are stored. Can become confusing when there are too many.

This command is invaluable. It lets you drop tools over the side of crevices and follow them later on.

These four icons are standard issue from the first *Lemmings*. The timer on the left looks different but fulfils the same function as before.



The Shadow Lemmings have a whole potted history behind them. We're not going to tell you it here because then you'd think that we were simply trying to fill some caption space.

hard drive, but even the installation routine is frustrating. So much so that I didn't bother with it and played the game from floppy instead.

Why the game should be irritating isn't immediately obvious. This time round though, unlike *Lemmings 2 – Tribes* which had 12 different types of lemmings, here there are only three varieties. So that's slightly irritating. More are promised at a later date, but in a calculated move that's going to cost you more money. Irritating.

World domination

Each type of lemming – Egyptian, Classic and Shadow – has 30 levels respectively. As is to be expected, they start easy, in a nice introductory kind of way and get progressively more difficult with frightening rapidity.

By the time the increasing difficulty starts to bite, some of the old conceptions of the original should hopefully have died off. No more waiting for lemmings to reach an obstacle before they turn back. You just command them to do so.

Now, there are five basic commands to be issued to each lemming rather than different types of lemming (check the boxout to find out more). Two of these commands, the pick up and drop, make up for the loss of the different types of lemmings. Presumably, this feature has been implemented so that the player has more to aim at on screen so that the game can still be played accurately with a mouse with a resolution lower than 180dpi and dirty rollers.

In theory, it's welcome. In practice, it isn't such a good idea. At times, you have to use the right mouse button to switch between different lemmings that have picked up different tools. If timing is crucial, this leads to uncalled for confusion, and ultimately, irritation.

Fortunately, it doesn't make the game unplayable – just bloody, bloody annoying. Just as annoying in fact as one of the old bugbears of the other two *Lemmings* games – selection of one particular lemming from a whole bunch of other little fellas.

Admittedly, Psygnosis have met the problem half way by making the user-selectable lemmings highlighted in red. But that still doesn't manage to stop the occasional lemming or two from craftily hiding behind a selected lemming. And, yep, you guessed it, you usually only find out that the stalking horses are there when you need them to be there least. Aaaaargghh!

So, you might have concluded that I, Stephen Nomiddlename McGill didn't like this game very much. And you'd be right. I hated it. But in terms of objectivity and professional reviewership, it has be admitted that it isn't a terrible game.

In fact, many *Lemmings* converts are going to love the various changes such as the inclusion of animals, the extra tools, and the larger command boxes. Good luck to them.



Working conditions in the mines never bothered any lemming.

Lemmings 3

Publisher:	Psygnosis 051 709 5755
Price:	£29.99
Versions:	A500/600/1200
System requirements:	AGA, 1Mb machines
Release date:	Out now

VERDICT: Nice touches to please fans of the original, but more of the same, really.

OVERALL SCORE 70%

GRAPHICS: 7 out of 10
Bigger and better animation than the original.

SOUND: 7 out of 10.
Fairly rudimentary and functional.

ADDICTION: 8 out of 10
Strangely, it's either compulsive or irritating.

PLAYABILITY: 8 out of 10
See above for an identical conclusion on this.

EMULATORS

❑^+ V1084 SPECTRUM v2.0
Want to run your old spectrum software on the Amiga then this is for you. (2)
❑^^ V1531 SPEC (AGA) v1.35
Superfast on A1200s and A4000s (2)
❑^+ V1257 Games 1-4 .... (4)
❑^+ V1261 Games 5-8 .... (4)
❑^+ V1338 Games 9-12 .. (4)
❑^+ MEGALOSOUND £34.99
Now you can convert all your old tape games/ programs to Amiga disk format.

MAGIC WORKBENCH

❑^* V1200 MAGIC WORKBENCH
This is what YOU have always been looking for. It is NOT just another useless Icon compilation!+ It's far more different. All standard system icons and more (actually 60 different Icons) painted in a new completely
❑^+ V1515 TREV'S MUI PIC'S
A set of backdrop pictures aimed at those using Magic WB but they are fine for normal WB as long as you adjust the palette.
❑^+ V1521 MODULE PLAY V3.3
Will generate & maintain graphical user interfaces. With the aid of a preferences program, the user has the ability to customize the outfit according to his personal taste
❑^* V1537 MAGICCX V1.0
is the definite commodity/system enhancer for any Amiga running OS 2.x or better. It is a powerful & flexible system. Utilizes power-ful gadget layout library Plenty of features.
❑^^ V1552 MAGIC USER INTERFACE
is an object oriented system to create and maintain graphical user interfaces. From a programmers point of view, using MUI saves a lot of time and makes life much easier.
❑^* V1569 MAGIC EXPANSION v1.3
Expand either MUI or MagicWB users. There are plenty of extra colour icons & backdrops ETC.
❑^+ V1588 MAGIC WB EXTRAS 1
Many icons for MagicWB. These icons enhance your W/B by using a special colour scheme and by adding new fonts to your workbench as well. (2)
❑^+ V1605 MAGIC WB EXTRAS 2
Even more extra icons for users of MagicWB.
❑^+ V1607 MAGIC WB EXTRAS 3
Also some includes for users of MUI. Good.
❑^+ V1609 BACKGROUND KIT
It consists of many new background patterns for your Workbench and also a tool which is designed to randomly select new back-grounds from a list of your favourites so that your workbench is never the same!.

VARIOUS UTILITIES

❑^ + V16 AQUARIUM
Turns your screen into an eyecatching Fish tank.
❑^ + V298 NORTHC v1.3
Complete C language with all files needed (2)
❑^ + V523 DICE C COMPILER
Matthew Dillons full featured powerful C compiler & environment system. Complete C language (2)
❑^ + V536 CATALOGUES
A collection of utilities used to Catalog all your disks/ Video tapes and audio tape collections (2)
❑^ + V575 HOME BUSINESS
Based on word processing, Data Management, Spreadsheets, Accounts & Printing. (6)
❑^ + V662 DCOPY v3.1 PRO
You can select the speed of the disk drive, Copy modes, Dos, Nibcopy, Ver & safecopy
❑^ + F691 PRO C MANUAL v3.0
documents & examples for C. It consists of six manuals, with over 40 chapters (5)
❑^ + V786 PASCAL
Everything needed to program in Pascal.
❑^ + V794 GRINDER
Complete graphic conversion package that supports GIF, JPeg, Atari St, PCX, Targa, TIFF, Ham-E and IFF Formats
❑! - V817 A500P EMULATOR
As it sounds will let v1.3 / v1.2 owners run WB v2.x+ software WITH-OUT any need to purchase the Workbench v2.x chips.
❑^ + V928 LITTLE OFFICE
Has a Word Processor and others programs to aid a small business or company.
❑^ + V979 NCOMM v3.2k
A communications program based on Comm v1.34 with lots of very nice enhancements
❑^ * V1017 POST v1.86
A Postscript interpreter for the Amiga which implements the full Adobe language (3)
❑^ ^ V1021 (AGA) SCREENS
Enhance your Workbench disks with backgrounds like these's. All pics in AGA
❑^ + V1022 LITTLE TRAVELLER
Shows a world map, You can select any country for travel information, Zooms up another map with detail.
❑^ + V1039 HARD DISK INSTALL
If you need to install your A1200 HD then you need this set of disks which can do a low-level format and then install WB 3.0 (2)
❑^ + V1041 DIGITAIL B.BOARD
Full featured digital circuit simulator
❑^ * V1043 SUPER DARK.v2.4a
Screen blanker like AfterDark from the MAC
❑^ + V1044 FANCY PRINTING
Banner, GraphPaper v1.2 & Disk Print v3.59.
❑^ + V1051 EASY CALC PLUS
A spread sheet designed to be both easy to use and fast. Built in excellent help system.
❑^ + V1060 BOARD DESIGN
Includes mCAD v1.26 and several terrific routines for the electronic enthusiast.
❑^ + V1079 KEYBoaRD TRAINER
Best Public Domain Typing Tutor.
❑^ * V1095 THE DEGRADERS
If you have trouble running software on an A1200 or A4000/030/040 give this disk a try it will emulate the basic 1.3 rom better that any other software on the Amiga at present.
❑^ + V1114 PRINT LABELs
DocDump, Envelope Print, Inlay Maker v1.4, MC master v1.1, Banner Press, Label Print
❑^ * V1136 DISKSALV 2v11.31
is a disk structure, file repair come salvage or undelete utl. HDClick, is a hard drive menu.
❑^ + V1196 DESKTOP VIDEO
Is a disk with making and editing your very own video master pieces. Excellent software
❑^ + V1207 OCTASTUFF
A collection of utilites come samples come modules for use with the famous OctaMED
❑^ + V1209 GNU C++ COMPILER
Requires: HD 6Mb+, Disks consists of the latest version of the GCC environment, The compiler, driver, assembler, linker, header files, inline code generation of libraries. (3)
❑^ + V1213 PROGRAMMING
Contains the Programming languages like, Ace, AmigaE, AmigaEdo, SBProlog, BCPL4AML, EGUI, Pascal and others (3)
❑^ + V1219 THE AREXX GUIDE
Full AmigaGuide document to teach you Arexx!! Tip filled with easy cross referencing.
❑^ ^ V1221 (AGA) BLANKER
BlitzBlanker has 14 different blankers all ready to show off your AGA machine!.
❑^ + V1222 PANASONIC STUDIO
Special printer Preferences editor and driver system for all Panasonic 9 & 24 pin printers.
❑^ + V1223 CANON STUDIO 2
Printer Preferences editor and driver system for 800&880, LBP A1-2, BJC 800, BJ510-130.
❑^ * V1227 GADTOOLS v2.2c
a collection of shared libraries intended to provide programmers with new GadTools
❑^ + V1236 INVOICE PRINTER
Will print invoices onto your letterheads. Much sought after. Ideally suited to a small business.
❑^ + V1242 RE-ORG v3.11
is a fast shareware disk optimizer for DOS.
❑^ + V1243 IMAGINE 2.0 OBJS
Packed to bursting point with Images for use with that amazing program Imagine. (4)
❑^ + V1247 TEXTURE MAPS
in 320x200 JPEG format for use with any rendering programs, textures like Organic, Miscellaneous, Stone, Wood etc. (3)
❑^ + V1250 SOLDERING
Contains many useful tools for drawing good quality circuit diagrams, and also vero-board (strip board/solder board) lay-outs.
❑^ + V1269 OCTAMED TUTOR
A guide through the basics of this excellent music program. From OctaMED 3.x upwards
❑^ * V1277 STAR STUDIO
A Printer driver for controlling any star printer.
❑^ + V1279 PRINT-A-CARD
Want to print a business card or any other type of card then this is the software for you.
❑^ + V1280 DIVIDEND WINNER
a pools prediction aid which will advise which numbers to enter on your coupon based on sequence prediction.
❑^ + V1282 FOOTY v1.9
sit back with your mouse-mat on your lap & keep track of whats happening in the leagues.
❑^ + V1286 PRINTER DRIVERS
Now also contains the program called sid for easy installation of the Printer Drivers.
❑^ + V1303 SCALA PICTURES
Pictures in736x580 16 colour format for use with The program Scala. Theres about 15 pics in total and are very sharp indead. (2)
❑^ + V1305 THE V.W.S v4.0
VIRUS WORKSHOP. Was produced to get rid of all the viruses around. Takes over where BootX left off.
❑^ * V1307 NETWORKING
Utilities to help aid in Networking your Amigas like AmigaNOS, DNet, Par/SerNet, also contains various update devices and libs. (3)
❑^ * V1310 AMIGA GUIDES
Contains AGAGuide, which gives full Amiga Guide information and Libs Guide is a Guide to the Amiga Libraries, find almost every Library.
❑^ + V1321 EDWORD PRO v4.1
Text language editor or Word processor on the Amiga with over 100 features. By M Reddy
❑^ + V1326 COMMANDS & LIBS
over 100 commands that lie within a c directory. and over 20 librarys will spice up your disks.
❑^ ^ V1330 (AGA) COLLECTION
AGA source code, IFF Binary convert, Sprite Converter, ColourConvert, PPShow, Viewtek
❑^^ V1335 LIBS & DATATYPES
(AGA) 47 Librarys for workbench 3 computers, all are right upto date and just waiting for you.
❑^ + V1354 FIVE STAR v1.0
A powerful prediction tool for LOTTO, POOLS, SWEEP, DIGIT and HORSE (races)
❑^ + V1357 CITIZON MANAGER
Superb prints that, have been tailored to suit the Citizen range of printers
❑^ * V1360 WB 2.0 TUTORIAL
There is a lot more options open to you than just playing games. Breaks down the makings of Workbench & make them understandable.
❑^ ^ V1361 (AGA) 16-COL ICONS
These icons were beautifully drawn by Roger McVey, and I must add that the originals are the best icons I have seen on any system.
❑^ + V1362 CHECKER TOOLBOX
Incredible Amiga diagnosis program. Runs self test on all chips, all the ports and even the disk drive! All your hardware is tested and displayed.
❑^ * V1363 AD&D ASSISTANT
play-time dungeon master's assistant and CHARGEN GUIDE v1.0
❑^ + V1367 CHEQUE-MATE! v1.0
Will help you control your personal finances. Enter details about cheques, salary, direct debits
❑^ + V1384 HOW TO CODE IN C
Covers Debugging, Intution & Grafik, Kodbibliotek, Tips, Tricks, AnropaAsm FranC, DosIntuition, Workbench-start, DMake, GadToolsBox. (2)
❑^ + V1393 STEREOSCOPIC v2.4
is a simple package that allows you to create 3D Stereograms. Use any background.
❑^ + V1394 CD-READER v1.1
is based around the parnet networking system and uses the standard parnet cable.
❑^ + V1400 3D STEROGRAM
3d Picture Show. All images are 3d stereograms.
❑^ + V1404 DMS v2.03
The Device Masher system will compatch a complete disk to a single file on your hard drive. Excellent for backing up software disks.
❑^ + V1405 VIRTUAL UTILS
Contains five utilities containing everything needed for any Amiga user to make virtual memory from their hard drive. The Amiga is fooled into thinking it has massive amounts of RAM when really it only has a small amount.
❑^ + V1416 EYE OF THE BEHOLDER
End of level saved game file, Character Editor, Eye of the Beholder Solution.
❑^ + V1417 BANNER V1.5
A smart character rendering utility for - surprise - banners. SNOOPY, Enables you to monitor library function calls of any library you wish.
❑^ + V1418 VIDEO TEST SYSTEM
is a collection of 20 test patterns that can be used to evaluate monitors, TV sets, VCRs, and other NTSC video equipment.
❑^ + V1420 SIGNITUR CREATOR
The Coat of Arms Creator You get a selection of letters for use in your new signiture.
❑^ + V1422 BANK MANAGER
The trouble with statements is that they only tell you what you have spent after its gone.
❑^ + V1423 TELETEXT V1.2
This project makes it possible to view Teletext (also know as Teletekst, Videotext, Ceefax, Skytext, Supertext etc.) on your Amiga. It is suitable for any PAL Amiga.
❑^ + V1430 N.D.U.K V37
Commodore Native Developer Update Kit. Includes the fd files, libraries, startups, C include files, and tools. (4)
❑^ + V1436 ABANK V1.0
It is about to easely manage accounts. This software holds numerous options which are detailed in the documentation.
❑^ + V1437 FOOTBALL ICONS
Icons to found on this disk are: All the teams at this years World Cup Finals plus a whole lost of loosers who didn't make it including Scotland, England, Wales & Northern ireland, etc
❑^ + V1438 WB 3.0 SCREENS II
Enhance your workbench disks backgrounds with theses nice full colour pictures. Can be used as backdrops for you workbench.
❑^ + V1439 DOS REFGUIDE V1.0
The first and only Amiga Dos reference Guide on the Amiga range hits the computer disk.
❑^ + V1440 DATAMASTER
This database has many good features including a maximum of 99999 records in one database and up tp 256 fields in one record. There are extensive searching facilities and printing.
❑^ * V1443 HCE V1.0 (2)
C Compiler envirenment for the Amiga. By Detlef Wuerkner modifed Compiler and Editor source codes so as to be able to combine the two & make a program.
❑^ + V1462 AMIGA FAX V1.4
Is a software package that, in combination with a FaxModem, allows you to send and receive facsimile information from your Amiga.
❑^ + V1467 AWARD CONSTRUCT
A very handy tool for creating your very own awards and certificates. There are many styles, fonts and graphics to choose from.
❑^ ^ V1468 GAMES HD INSTALL
Provides you with the software needed to install certain games onto your A1200. The games that this disk can install are BodyBlows, Goal, Lemmings 2, Superfrog, and Walker. Could be very usefull.
❑^+ V1479 NEXT GENERATION WB
Powers up the Workbench photons & readys your system for the Star Trek experiences. (2)
❑^+ V1509 PRO-GAMBLE V1.0
is a horse racing prediction system thats easy to use and accurate in it's predictions.
❑^^ V1512 256 COLOUR ICONS
This disk is full of lovely colourfull icons for use in WB3 only as they are 256 colour images. Draws, tools & project types.
❑^+ V1513 SCION V3.13
Aa geneaology application. It provides all you need to build up a computer database of your entire family tree and all the relating details.
❑^+ V1514 ABC PATTERNS
For those of you who get a little bored with the old plain grey Workbench, here is a disk full of all the WB patterns and screens. Good.
❑^+ V1516 TERM V4.0
The latest version of this very well known comms terminal program. Version 4 has even more features and although it is not for beginners it is probably the best available. (2)
❑^+ V1518 APOLLO 11
A very informative hypertext book all about the famous Apollo 11 mission which allowed man to set foot on the Moon. Stacks of information interspersed with photos, documents and diagrams. Very good (2)
❑^+ V1522 VIRTUAL WORLDS
An adv creator for which you need no programming knowledge to create worlds. an easy to use point and click interface, you can design an entire adventure without having to type in a single line of code.
❑^+ V1523 RELOKICK V1.41
Howdi doodlely doooo Amiga freaks! It's ANOTHER(!) version of ReloKick.
❑^^ V1532 RAYTRACED ALIENS
HAM of a Profiles of the Alien.
❑^^ V1534 ICONIAN V1.97
An icon editor with all the functions of IconEdit under OS3.0, plus more. Features: Support for sizable windows and custom fonts
❑^^ V1535 (AGA) JPEGAGA
Highest quality JPEG viewer (if a map-file for that picture is available) uses the HAM8-mode
❑^* V1538 MASS ICON ALTER
allows manipulation of many icons all at once.
❑^* V1541 VMEM & VMM
VMEM v1.0 Release 1 VIRTUAL MEMORY SYSTEM for ALL Amigas with WB2 or above. **VMM v2.0** is a virtual memory manager for any Amiga with a 68030 or 68040 processor.
❑^^ V1542 SIRD. STEREOGRAM
(V3.8) The dots (which seem random) are calculated in such a way that if you focus behind the picture (monitor,etc), you will see a 3D pic with a real feeling of depth. AGA
❑^+ V1544 MANAGECDPICS
Ccataloger that allows you to create picture-databases and easily view the pictures.
❑^+ V1546 MN3A v1.2
An antenna design program used to calculate currents, impedance, and fields of wire antennas. The wires may contain lumped-constant loads.
❑^* V1548 PRO-WIZARD V2.0
is a multi-converter for Amiga music files packed with tools like NoisePacker, ProPacker, etc It converts all these weird formats.
❑^^ V1554 I.B.M (2)
THE IMAGINE BUDDY SYSTEM is an excellent new addod for Imagine 2.0
❑^+ V1556 IMAGE STUDIO v1.1
Has been written for the casual graphics user who wishes to convert or manipulate various graphic formats on almost all amiga machines.
❑^* V1559 TOATERS TEXTURES
Contains four Reflection Maps, Two Bump Maps, Nineteen Surfaces and much more.
❑^* V1560 BIG DUMMYS GUIDE TO THE INTERNET
The first edition of the book By Adam Gaffin
❑^+ V1561 RADIO JINGLES
A set of IFF sound samples which are radio jingles. Some have melodies and some are simply voices saying things like The UKs Number 1! etc.
❑^+ V1563 URBAN SHAKEDOWN
Well here we have six whole disks crammed full of sound samples. These samples are nearly all loops which can be used to provide the beat to a modules. There are around 10 to 20 samples on each disk. Very good. (6)
❑^+ V1570 IMAGINE FONTS
This set of four disks is aimed at those who use Imagine 3.0. Each disk contains about twenty Adobe fonts for use with Imagine. (4)
❑^+ V1574 KIDS DISK 4
This disk gives you everything you need to view books created using Kids DTP 2.
❑^+ V1575 KIDS DISK 5
An interesting set of educational games. There are three in all. The first one uses a robot to teach multiplication. The second teaches the alphabet and the third teaches subtraction. for your children.
❑^+ V1576 ANIMAL LAND
aimed at children aged roughly between 4 and 6. The aim of the game is to guess where certain animals live by pressing the correct number. remember which numbers corresponded to each animal.
❑^+ V1584 A TO Z PAINT PAD
For learning the alphabet and how to use computers as well. Basically it is a computerized colouring book. There is a picture for each letter of the alphabet which can be filled in with colour using the mouse.
❑^+ V1585 ARTISTIX
This children's art studio is an art package ideal for the kids. There are loads of options. In fact there is everything that most full blown applications have but in a limited form.
❑^+ V1586 COMMS GUIDE V1.1
An AmigaGuide (hypertext) document all about the world of Comms. It includes information on hardware, how to connect to BBSs and everything you ever wanted to know about.
❑^+ V1590 SECURITY
Tool for protecting your Amiga. This utility is designed to prevent any Tom Dick or Harry from switching your Amiga on and destroying files or looking at things they should not.
❑^+ V1591 PAINT IT
Simple art package which is aimed mainly at children. The only thing that this program can do is fill sections with colour. Supplied on the disk are several pictures ready to be coloured in.
❑^+ V1592 CASIO COMMS
Well what do you know? A program that will allow your Amiga to communicate with a Casio pocket diary! Even circuit diagrams and parts are given for the construction of the required hardware. All casio files can then be viewed on the Amiga as well as the Casio.
❑^+ V1593 EPU STAKKER V1.7
Yes you can now double space your hard drive using EPU. This tool will compress everything written to the hard drive and decompress it as it is used. Entire process is invisible to the user.
❑^+ V1594 DJ JINGLES
This is a set of three disks all packed full of IFF sound samples of radio / DJ jingles. (3)
❑^+ V1602 ASSIGN MANAGER
A very useful utility for your workbench. a system preferences program for organising and sorting your Assign. included on this disk is Assigns 1.1 which does much the same thing. These therefore eliminate the need for tens of lines in your User-startup.
❑^+ V1603 BACK TO BACK
Utls on this compilation: PCRestore is a tool for transferring files between a pc and Amiga. Address Manager 2.0, EditKeys allows you to design and save your very own keymaps.
❑^+ V1604 DESKTOP MAGIC V2.0
This Stops monitor burn in by popping up an animation when the machine is left on without being used. Also there are features which allow the introduction of sound effects to your W/B
❑^+ V1610 MYSTERONS FX
A very good set of sound effects. These sound samples (saved IFF) range in subject. None of these are really intended for musical use but more for games. All the FX are silly sounds (pops boings etc).
❑^+ V1611 SNOOPDOS V3.0
will log all the dos/library calls and more when you run a program. This is handy for both the programmer and the beginner. For example; Have you ever installed a program to your harddrive and then discovered that it will not run without a certain library but you don't know which? Well this will inform you.
❑^+ V1612 DPAINT BUDDY
A clever utility which workss with Dpaint to bring you a help system for the program. Simply select from the Dpaint menu bar and each option is described in detail. (2)
❑^+ V1614 PHONE LOCATOR
A very good and amazingly useful utility which will not only tell you the location of an STD code throughout the UK in 1995. Superb.
❑^+ V1615 SATURNE MODULES
The first part in the series. This disk has four noise tracker modules (power packed) which are indeed very origanal as well as good. (2)
❑^+ V1617 CHEATS V3.0
An excellent set of game cheats and solutions which are presented with good graphics and amusing sound effects taken from films and cartoons. Several good solutions for some quite recent adventures here.
❑^+ V161 DUST 3D SPECIAL EFFECTS
Dust is a programm which manipules 3d-objects. It reads in one object and creates a sequence of new objects.
❑^+ V1619 CPK
An interesting utility which renders spheres, create chemistry diagrams involving molecular structures.
❑^+ V1620 NIGHT MATHS ATTACK
Teaches the four basic skills of maths, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
❑^+ V1621 TEE TO GREEN
This is a database for Golf players. It will allow you to record everything to with your game.
❑^+ V1622 MAP DESIGNER V2.0A
This utility is used to design and create maps for use in applications such as Amos. Easy to use.
❑^+ V1623 GAS TRICK
This is a little utility which is designed to take the hassle out of caculating the state of your Gas bill.
❑^+ V1624 CHEATS V1.0
is simply a text file full of game cheats and Action Replay pokes. well over 500 Amiga games
❑^+ V1625 LOCKUP V3.6
This is a simple utility which prevents anyone other than the password holder from accessing Workbench. Easily installable. Very good.
❑^+ V1626 CHRISTMAS LABELS
Contains exactly twenty Cristmas Labels. These come in the form of IFF graphics suitable for use in DPaint and similar applications. Great cartoons
❑^+ V1627 PROTITLER
This program has many great facilities for titling videos. This program is mainly for use with a genlock and it has some handy capabilities such as displaying a football score and clock for puting on footbal videos.
❑^+ V1628 STAR TREK OBJECTS
a stunning selection of Imagine objects for use with Imagine v2.0 or better.
❑^+ V1629 IMAGINE OBJECTS 5
a large amount of different Imagine objects for use with Imagine v2.0 or better
❑^+ V1630 BABYLON 5 OBJECTS
Yes the Babylon 5 Rendered space station with all it's special effects and stunning graphics.
❑^+ V1631 ALIENS OBJECTS
Even more Imagine 2.0 objects all featuring the alien and aliens film series.
❑^+ V1633 WORKBENCH PATTERNS
Loads of pretty workbench patterns. Some are colour some are black and white. So if you want to spice up your workbench add some patterns.
❑^+ V1635 LOTTERY WINNER
Well it didn't take very long for this one to pop up.
❑^+ V1636 MENUS & MORE V3.12
Versatile tool for creating menu systems. This can be applied to magazines, slideshows, demos & new frontends.
❑^+ V1637 BABYLON 5 OBJECTS 2
a selection of Imagine 3.0 objects of Babylon 5
❑^+ V1638 SPECCY WARGAMES
All these games are wargames. They are all very well documented as well as ready to play.
❑^+ V1639 STEREOCAD DEMO
A new program to make your own 3d stereogram pictures in colour. Features include User difinition of three sliced objects such as spheres, pyramids, tubes, stars and prisms.

GAME DISKS

❑^ + 1060 STAR TREK: TNG
This is a stratergy based Star Trek in which you control the Enterprice
❑^ + 1081 ULT STAR TREK
This is probley the most famious of the games here with great graphics and sound.
❑! - 1073 TETRIS ORIGINAL
This is the closest game to the original tetris
❑^ ^ 3040 TETRIS (AGA)
If you like tetris, you need this disk.
❑^ + 3075 18 HOLE GOLF
Fully selectable speed and power functions com-bined with surpub graphics and sound. (2)
❑^ + 3310 STARBASE 13
Is a graphical adv simular in style to monkey island & Operation Stealth. A brilliant game (2)
❑^ + 3370 DIGITIAL TETRIS
Is a 1 or two player Tetris game with neat graphics
❑^ ^ 3454 (AGA) KLODIKE
Fancy a game of Klodike with AGA graphics. (3)
❑^ * 3619 GNU CHESS 4.0
It contains a nice graphical user interface (menus, use mouse to move pieces ect.) The advantages of this program over that others are GNU Chess is a much stronger chess playing program.
❑^ + 3766 SMASHING TETRIS
Another tetris variant game with excellent colourly exiciting graphics.
❑^ + 3803 A DAY AT THE RACES
In which you can run a horse racing stable with a selection of options. Run a stable of horses.
❑^ ^ 3804 (AGA) MEGABALL
the best Amiga bat & bat game ever. New Bats, bricks, sounds extra levels.
❑^ + 3814 HIGH OCTANE!
Stunner of a game in the vain of HotRod! You get an overhead view of the race course.
❑^ ^ 3819 (AGA) TO THE DEATH
Just has to be purchased because its brilliant, The Best Karate type game around. Select various characters and special moves.
❑^ + 3820 DOG FIGHT
BiPlane but with better graphics, sounds, extra long screen sizes, split screen play.
❑^ + 3841 KRILLIAN INCIDENT
Take control of a federation starship & travel the known galaxies defending outposts from certain factions of the race called the Krill. similar to games such as Elite and Epic.
❑^ + 3844 MOOSE DRIVE
Driving simulator that is shown isometrically on the screen. cars are all three dimensional. Good game in which you not only race against the ever improving computer cars but also customise cars.
❑^ ^ 3864 (AGA) MISSILES
You must defend your city of Xenon in this futuristic nuclear war game. First purchase all the weapons and defences that you need, then you have to shoot down the waves of enemy missiles which come in all shapes and sizes. Superb graphics & sound. (2)
❑^ ^ 3885 IMPERATOR
A strategy game for one player in which you must conquer the world. Contend with barbarians, plagues, rival empires and your own commanders.
❑^ + 3897 TASKFORCE
is in fact quite a complex, strategic war game in which you control a taskforce of five men.
❑^ + 3904 SOLAR LORDS
An excellent war gaming game with loads of features like, personal rating, income per turn, credits, military power, luck rating, strategic power, science rating.
❑^ + 3918 STEWARDS ENQUIRY
Ever played one of those horse racing games on an old 8 bit machine. Well this is just like those. Up to eight players can bet their money on horses which race before your very eyes.
❑^ + 3919 MINESWEEPER
A classic puzzle game often found on Windows. You must uncover squares without hitting mines and try to work out the where abouts of the mines and marking them.
❑^ + 3920 TIMELESS EMPIRE
A text adventure in which you can vertually decide the result yourself.
❑^ ^ 3942 PLANET FALL AGA
Lunar Lander game. 2 levels of a great lunar lande, with nice sounds and fun action.
❑^ + 3944 MOONROCKS
Recent news reports indicate a famous dead rock star has been sighted on the moon. Your mission, if you choose to accept it, is to find the rock star and land near him.
❑^ * 3945 SPHERES OF INFLUENCE
Is a strategy game of galactic colonization (for one to eight players one of which must be human.) Hard drive installable. 1 Mb of CHIP
❑^+ 3946 MIND GAMES 4
Jim's Video Poker v1.0, Lazymines v1.0, Mastermind v1.6, MineSweeper, Montana v1.2, NineMen v1.6, SCS v1.0, Washer, Ying&Yang.
❑^ + 3947 FOOTBALL MANAGER
This is probably the best Football Manager game currently on the market. By Datasoft
❑^+ 3949 INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE
1 - 4 players who each take on the role of a spy attempt-ing to steal secrets from a company. Along the way you must search rooms, plant bombs, shoot guards and access computer terminals in order to complete missions.
❑^ + 3950 SPLOGGY
in the style of Super Mario, Brilliant GAME for all its nice colourful graphics and playability.
❑^^ 3958 (AGA) TETRIS DUEL
This tetris clone. The graphics are very good and so is the gameplay. There are a few extra features such as bombs and other things that drop down.
❑^ ^ 3968 ERIC SCHWARTZ MORPHY THE MAGIC MAN AGA
This AGA version has even better graphics but needs twice the memory. (4Mb)
❑^ + 3969 OVERLANDER
Moonbuggy. You take control & must navigate the planets surface whilst shooting both ground & air targets.
❑^ ^ 3971 (AGA) BACMAN
AGA pacman clone which uses the full 2 meg of your machine. quite good graphics.
❑^^ 3972 ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE 2
The Sequal & it is better. With improved graphics and sound effects this game is even more gorey than it's origanal. is operation wolf style and is full of blood.
❑^ + 3973 KNIGHTS
Adventure type arcade game for two players. You are each a knight who is patrolling the dungeons. There are many items to collect and if you see each other you can have a fight. Excellent graphics and gameplay.
❑^+ 3974 BUCK TOOTH BOB'S JUNGLE ADVENTURE
amusing platform shoot'em up. The idea is to blow as many birds and other jungle animals apart as possible with Bob's trusty double barralled shot gun!
❑^ + 3975 AUTOMOBILES
A cute little racing game which is a bit like skidmarks but on a very small scale. The game can be played with up to three players at once, and loads of options like new tracks and different control methods. Great.
❑^+ 4007 STARWOIDS (2)
Very well presented arcade game. The game is meant to be like StarWars. The actual gameplay itself is not quite as exiting but still very addictive. You have to thrust around in your X-Wing collecting troops on the ground.
❑^+ 4056 ARCHY'S MINIDASH
old C-64 style Boulderdash clone, AdvancedMiniDash, and here is many new great features, like bombs, magic walls, arrows, etc. full editor, allows to use all features.
❑^+ 4066 MORIA v1.2.0
is a single player dungeon simulation. choose from a number of races and classes when creating a character, then 'run' that character over a period of days, weeks, even months, attempting to win the game by defeating the Balrog which lurks in the deeper levels.
❑^+ 4067 DYNAMITEWAR V2.0
2-5 players who fight against each other. It is similar to Dynablaster or Bomberman, except a 1-player mode is not available. On the other hand, there are a great number of extras. To win the game, 1 player has to disintegrate all other players by exploding bombs.
❑^+ 4068 ICE PRINCESS V1.4
Role-Playing Game which is a Demo version of an interactive novel. You are an 18 year old orphan who meets the love of his life on Christmas Eve. A fairy-tale story for both young and grown-up children.
❑^+ 4070 ROACHFARM V1.0
Our job is to fill test tubes with live roaches in preparation for shipping so that eager Roach Farm may stock their farms with livestock.
❑^+ 4071 CITADEL SPACE EMPIRE
You compete with up to 25 other players attempting to control the universe and become the glorious Space Lord. The route is difficult and there are many enemies along the way. Economic strategy.
❑^+ 4076 ANTWARS V1.9
Puts you in the shoes of an ANT who must try and destroy the anemys ant nest, Tactical.
❑^+ 4084 FRUIT MACHINE
Althought the graphics are simple the gameplay is highly addictive and realitic. Good Game.
❑^+ 4085 DEPTH CHARGE
is based on an old arcade game in which you control an subarine destroyer. Destroy subs.
❑^+ 4086 SPACE TAXI V1.01
This is a clone from the old game on the C64. There can be up to three players simultaneously. The third player can control his taxi via keyboard or by another joystick plugged into one of these 4-Player-Adapters.
❑^+ 4098 HAPPY MONSTER
Cute platform game. You have to bound about the platforms shooting the occasional blob and collecting food and jewels. Very good graphics.
❑^+ 4099 OG THE CAVEMAN
is a caveman & you must guide him past enemy creatures and also try to collect fruit and axes which can be used to kill the enemy
❑^+ 4111 AMBASSADOR V2.0
This is a fruit machine game. As with the genuine article you put money in the machine and then attempt to win a whole lot more back by gambling. The graphics and sound are mediocre. Goog playability.
❑^+ 4121 BAZZA N RUNT
A very pretty little game. You being one of the two (bazza or runt) are the star of this wicked little platform game which reminds me of bombjack. Good graphics.
❑^+ 4122 GLOBAL THERMO-NUCLEAR WARFARE
Yes, we have all seen the movie War Games. Well this is the game which he plays. It is a one or two player game in which one party plays America and the other plays Russia. Each then have to build up an arsenal of nuclear weapons and attack the opposition.
❑^+ 4123 SANTA & RUDOLF
An excellent game in which you can either play the part of Santa or Rudolf. You have to collect presents and shoot dodgy little snow men in order to keep Christmas alive. Brilliant graphics and fun gameplay.
❑^+ 4127 ARTHUR
A text adventure based around the story of Arthur (soon to be King Arthur) and the Quest for Excaliber You play the part of young Arthur and Merlin guides
❑^+ 4128 GREEN 5
Seems at first to have the feel of Another World. This is due to the lengthly and very well animated intro. In fact the gameplay of this game is that of a platform beat'em up. You a ninja type character must battle against other ninjas and plenty of other enemies.
❑^+ 4129 COLONIAL CONQUEST II
Strategy game which is based heavily on the game Civilisation. The idea of the game is to spread your civilisation through the 26 planets of the universe map and to defend it from other civilisations by building weapons and war ships. One or two player. Very good.
❑^+ 4130 ISLAND
This is an Amiga version of the boardgame Hotel. It can only be played by two players and the aim of the game is to buy and build an empire of Hotels until you force the other player into bankruptcy. Good graphics.
❑^+ 4131 MANGLED FENDERS
A very fun game. Select your vehicle from the choice of six (tank, porsche, dustbin van, lamborgini, minibus, and another sportscar.) and then pit your wits against the others in a ring! Yes you must attempt to smash up all the other cars before they smash you.
❑^^ 4134 DOOM ENGINE AMIGA
We have seen many DOOM engines in Amiga, but almost all of them are crap. This one uses 256x200 and 192x160 size windows with 256 colors and needs 020+ and AGA.
❑^+ 4135 CULT & FANTASY TV
Back again, the second part of this series entitled the ITC Classics has tunes which are closely linked to the original themes.
❑^+ 4136 MELONCHOLY MOMENT
Here we have five great tracks, three of which are composed by the author.
❑^+ 4137 BONANZA
BattleSheep is a WB game which is identical to battleships except it is based on sheep instead of ships. Milestones is a board game in which you have to reach exactly 1000 miles before the computer does. Tanx n Stuff is a classic multiplayer split screen tank.
❑^+ 4138 SPEEDWAY DEMO
This demo is a managerial stratergy game for teams of speedway riders. Good addictive game
❑^^ 4139 (AGA) ROKETZ
is a 2 player racing game with a slight difference. Your vehicles are space craft which manouvre just as spacecraft do in games like thrust, except you have to get the thing round.
❑^+ 4141 FRACAS
is based around Star Wars like walkers. With split screen you must walk around the level in search of the other player who you must destroy.
❑^+ 4142 TEAM TETRIS
A tetris clone as you might have guessed but for one major difference.
❑^+ 4143 TOTAL DOMINATION
It is based untirely on another PD game called Universial Conquest. Two players play against each other for control of 'The Galaxy', which is a grid of cells, some of which contain planets.
❑^* 4144 NEW WORLD EXPLORATION
In New World, you play the role of an early explorer, setting out from Europe to face the unknown. Armed with a loan from the crown, you must equip an expedition and sail west in search of the New World.
❑^+ 4145 SUPER BATTLE ZONE 3D
In the right hand corner you will see what we call radar and the small dot on it represents the enemy that you suppose to destroy.
❑^+ 4146 STAR FIGHTER (AB)
A cool 3d space flight simulator with more then 50 missions!!.
❑^+ 4148 9 FINGERS [SPACEBALLS]
is a rave demo which a lot of people have been chatting about recently. Its almost entirely made up digitised people dancing along to the soundtrack.
❑^+ 4150 FISHY FISHY
A game in which you are a small fish. As time goes on and you've eaten a few crabs and then eels and then starfish etc you will start growing bigger and bigger until you can eat everyone up.
❑^+ 4151 BEAVIS & BUTTHEAD
is a slideshow of the well known cartoon characters featured on MTV. The slideshow is not just artwork it is more like a cartoon strip.
❑^+ 4152 BRAINSTORM DEMO
This is a game programmed in Amos. The idea is to complete jigsaw puzzles of various different things. Surprisingly difficult. Quite addictive.
❑^^ 4155 (AGA) DR WHO CARDSET
Another card set for the game Klondike AGA.
❑^^ 4156 (AGA) RETURN / THE JEDI
Another card set for the game Klondike AGA.
❑^^ 4157 (AGA) EMPIRE STRIKES
Another card set for the game Klondike AGA.
❑^+ 4158 WEAPON MASTERS
This demo is a one or two player fighting game in which both players fight with weapons. You start out fighting with a sword and there is no lack of blood when you get down to messing with player two (mate or the computer).

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Another month, and another look at the best-selling Amiga games of the past 30 odd days. Steve Bradley sorts out the wheat from the chaff.



The charts are copyright ELSPA

The top games

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: The finest Amiga racing game? *Micro Machines* is back in the charts. *Theme Park* drops in at number three while *Rise Of The Robots*, not surprisingly with the 18-wheel hype machine in full motion, also makes its debut. And Acclaim's top beat-em-up, *Mortal Kombat* makes a phenomenal leap to the number eight spot.

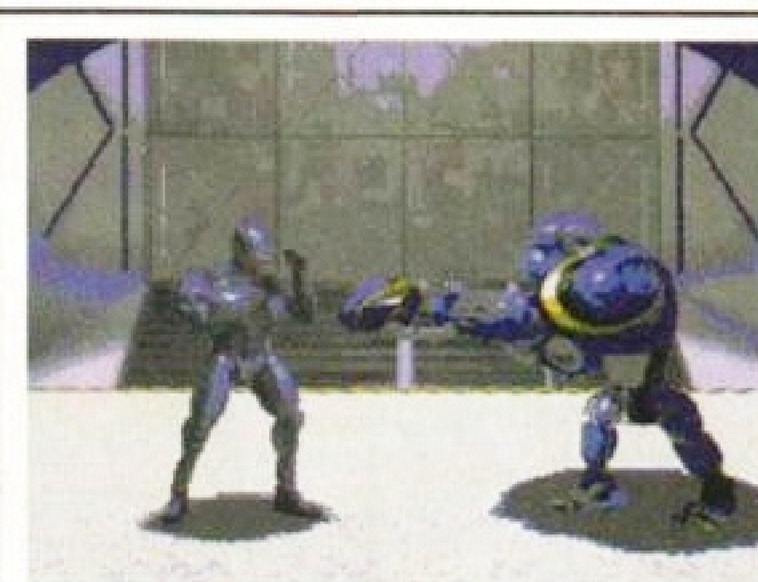
CENTRE: *Cannon Fodder 2* is selling like hot cakes. What can shift it from the top of the charts?











RISE OF THE ROBOTS: After the hype and bluster comes the chart position. But will it ever be the Top 20 number one?

In the making...

FEBRUARY

High Seas Trader (Daze)
Shiver my, ahem, timbers.
King-Pin (Team17)
Beat the bowling alley blues.
Sensible Golf (Virgin)
Top-down, check-trousered extravaganza.
Skeleton Krew (Core)
Isometric shoot-em-up.
Skitchin' (Ocean)
Road Rash on roller skates.
Super Loopz (Audiogenic)
Pipemania-esque puzzledom.

MARCH

Baldy (Mindscape)
God game involving folk bereft of hair.
Chaos Engine 2 (Renegade)
Bitmapped shoot-em-up.
Cyberwar CD^{32} (SCI)
Virtually virtual reality 3D shoot-em-up.
Legends (Krisalis)
Zelda-esque role playing game.
Mega Race CD^{32} (Mindscape)
Handsome-looking racer.
Spherical Worlds (Black Legend)
Top-down view shoot-em-up.
The Big End (The Hidden)
Isometric-viewed racing game.

THIS MONTH'S FULL-PRICE TOP 20

1 (-)	**Cannon Fodder 2** (Virgin)	FG90%
2 (-)	**Mortal Kombat II** (Acclaim)	FG92%
3 (-)	**Theme Park** (Electronic Arts)	FG91%
4 (-)	**Premier Manager 3** (Gremlin)	85%
5 (-)	**Micro Machines** (Codemasters)	FG90%
6 (-)	**Football Glory** (Kompart)	80%
7 (-)	**Winter Olympics** (US Gold)	70%
8 (22)	**Mortal Kombat** (Virgin)	FG92%
9 (-)	**Rise Of The Robots** (Time Warner)	19%
10 (12)	**Kick Off 3** (Anco)	79%
11 (-)	**Alien Breed 2: Tower Assault** (Team 17)	83%
12 (-)	**On The Ball League Edition** (Daze)	70%
13 (-)	**PGA European Tour** (Ocean)	83%
14 (11)	**Skidmarks** (Acid)	FG90%
15 (-)	**Zeewolf** (Binary Asylum)	FG90%
16 (-)	**Beau Jolly Compilation** (Beau Jolly)	FG90%
17 (6)	**International Sensible Soccer** (Renegade)	FG93%
18 (re)	**Jurassic Park** (Ocean)	73%
19 (re)	**Civilization** (Microprose)	FG92%
20 (-)	**Power** (US Gold)	49%

Top 10 Budget

1 (1)	**Champ Man 93/94** (Domark)	65%
2 (3)	**Batman Returns** (Gametek)	48%
3 (9)	**Monkey Island 2** (Kixx XL)	FG94%
4 (-)	**Desert Strike** (Hit Squad)	FG90
5 (-)	**Champ Man 94 End Of Season** (Domark)	FG94%
6 (-)	**Formula One Grand Prix** (Powerplus)	FG93%
7 (-)	**Dune II** (Hit Squad)	FG91
8 (-)	**PGA Tour Golf Plus** (Hit Squad)	FG93%
9 (10)	**Sim City Classic** (Maxis)	83%
10 (5)	**Arcade Pool** (Team 17)	FG94

Top 10 A1200

1 (1)	**Theme Park** (Electronic Arts)	FG91%
2 (-)	**Premier Manager 3** (Gremlin)	85%
3 (-)	**Rise Of The Robots** (Time Warner)	19%
4 (-)	**Aladdin** (Virgin)	FG90%
5 (-)	**PGA European Tour** (Ocean)	83%
6 (-)	**Football Glory** (Kompart)	80%
7 (-)	**Sim City 2000** (Maxis)	FG90%
8 (-)	**Lords Of The Realm** (Daze)	80%
9 (-)	**Jungle Strike** (Ocean)	87%
10 (2)	**UFO: Enemy Unknown** (Microprose)	FG90%

Top 10 CD^{32}

1 (-)	**Rise Of The Robots** (Time Warner)	19%
2 (-)	**Bump 'n' Burn** (Grandslam)	Not reviewed
3 (-)	**Alien Breed 2** (Team 17)	79%
4 (-)	**SubWar 2050** (Microprose)	84%
5 (-)	**Beneath A Steel Sky** (Virgin)	86%
6 (-)	**Wembley International Soccer** (Audiogenic)	79%
7 (-)	**Super Putty** (System 3)	Not reviewed
8 (-)	**PGA Tour Golf** (Ocean)	Not reviewed
9 (-)	**Super Stardust** (Team 17)	FG90%
10 (1)	**Arcade Pool** (Team 17)	FG90%

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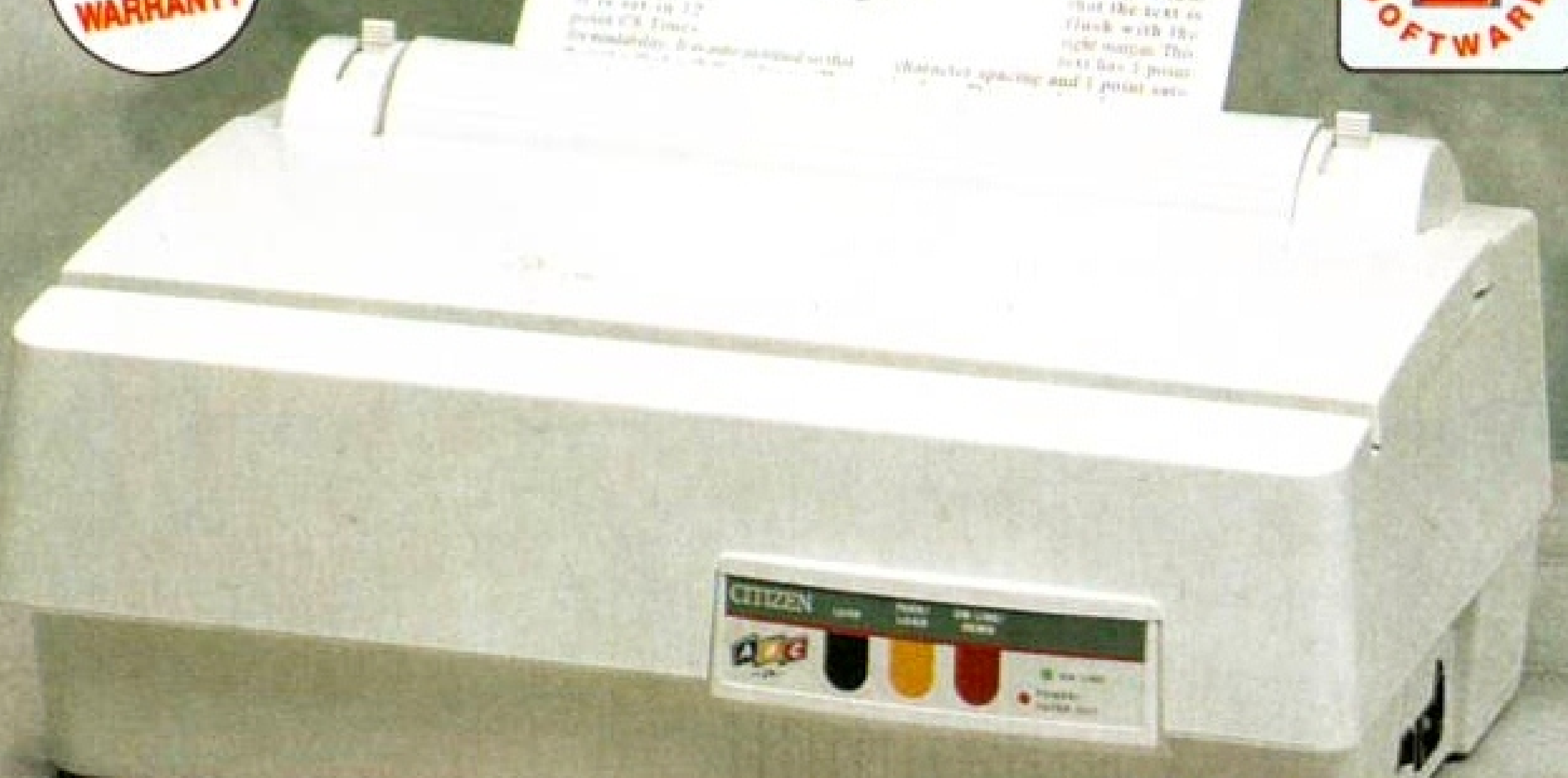
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Once again it's time to check out the latest batch of new games released for the CD32. Steve Bradley takes a turn to spin the discs...

CD32 Games

ALIEN BREED II: TOWER ASSAULT

Team 17 ■ 01924 201846 ■ £29.99



80%

One chap has lost control of his fighter craft. Clumsy, eh?

Two months ago friends, we reviewed the floppy version of the latest *Alien Breed* incarnation, *Tower Assault*, recommending it with an 83% score. It returns, this time wearing the CD32 cap and priced some £10 more than its floppy pal. For the extra money, you receive, on the same CD, mind, the original *Alien Breed 2* and a seven minute 3D intro sequence which, if you can suspend belief for a brief moment, resembles the cast from *Emmerdale* remaking *Star Wars*.

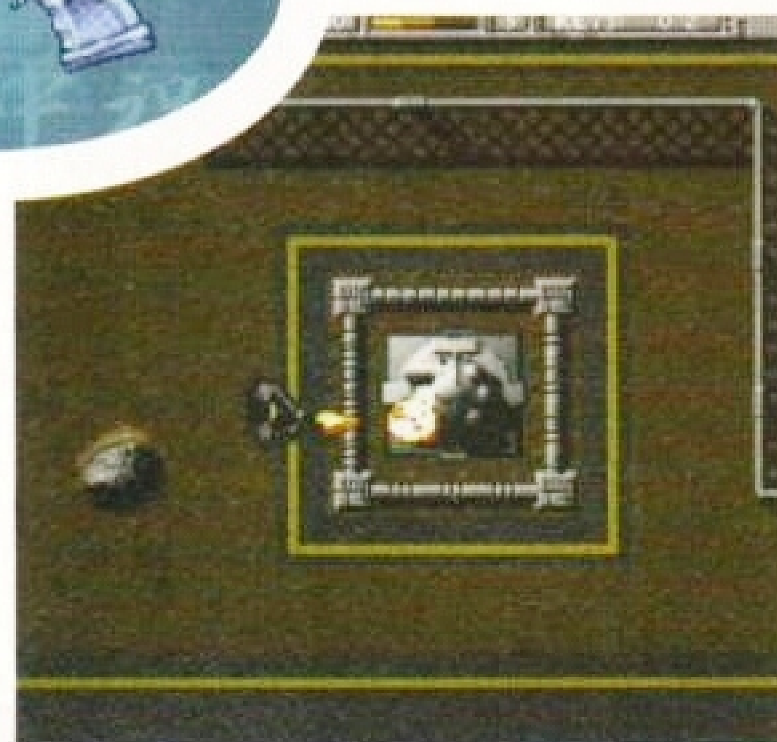


If that sounds somewhat derisive, apologies, for it's most entertaining fare, in an odd sort of way. Former *AF* editor Marcus Dyson plays a starring role as the chap who decides whether the other chaps in the spaceships can shoot things. But, of course, you do not buy a computer game for its intro sequence, unless you bought *Microcosm*.

So, the game. It's a viewed-from-above shoot-em-up. You are in possession of a gun, and you're invited to wander corridors and shoot the inhabitants. And with over 50 levels, there is many a corridor to walk.

New features include dark levels where you feel your way by torchlight and a retreat facility allowing you to walk backwards and still shoot (woooh) the fiends. *Tower Assault* is extremely difficult, particularly in one-player mode – aliens proliferate blasting you from all angles, and you kind of get the feeling that it's unfair.

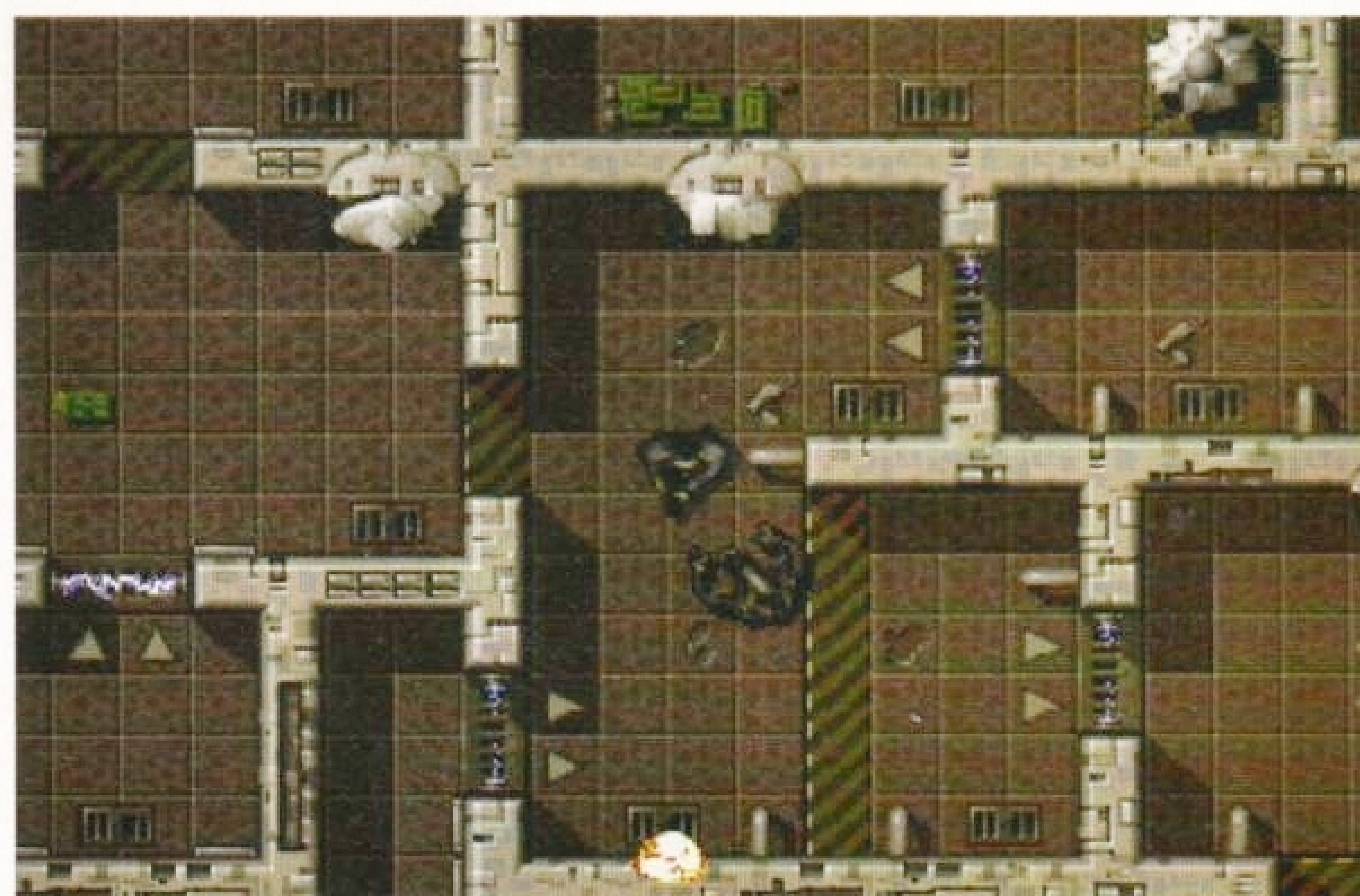
Play with a friend and the difficulty level is rather less painful. Missions must be completed on every level – computer terminals contain the mission info, while maps offer limited assistance for navigation around the many rooms. But you often find yourself hopelessly lost, stumbling around searching for the exit from the level. If you're a fan of the *Breed* series, then chances are, you will enjoy *Tower Assault*. Mere mortals though, may find it frustrating. The original *Alien Breed 2* is excellent, but a bit tough to begin with, too.



Did you know that one version of *Alien Breed* remained at the top of the charts for the best part of a year?



Ex *AF* Ed Marcus Dyson offers helpful advice on when to shoot, and when not to. (The above two screenshots are from *Tower Assault*'s seven-minute intro sequence.)

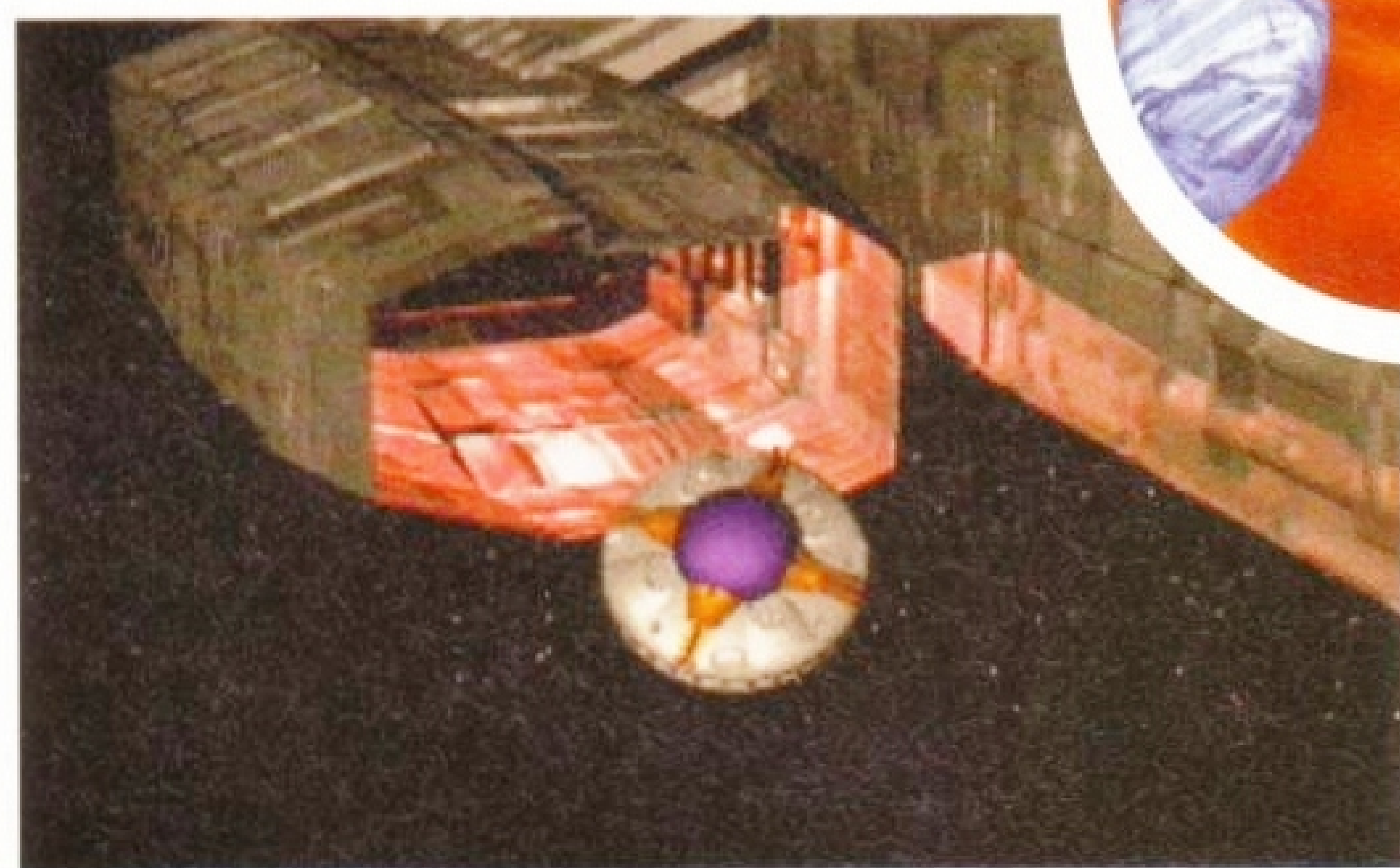


Tower Assault remains faithful to the *Alien Breed* genre, with its top-down blast-em action.

Continued overleaf ➡









***Super Stardust* is one of the most spectacular-looking CD[32] games to date, and it has the playability to match. But then, it would be some feat to make a mess of an *Asteroids* clone.**

← SUPER STARDUST

Team 17 ■ 01924 201846 ■ £29.99

So shouteth the *Super Stardust* box. "Fear is for the weak. Mercy is for the foolish. Power, strength and victory are the only words which can mean anything to you... Have you got what it takes?" Erm, can I go to the toilet, please?

You may be too young. You may be too old. But if you're the right age, then you will have played *Asteroids* in sports centres, or perhaps arcades at some point in the early Eighties. *Super Stardust* is *Asteroids*, albeit an extremely posh version but, of course, if you've played *Asteroids* then you will know that this is no bad thing. Gameplay extraordinaire, if you will. You have a ship. The ship is placed in the centre of the screen and a variety of unfriendly objects head towards you. You can shoot the unfriendly objects, and if you wish, move your ship to other areas of the screen, thus avoiding the attentions of the unfriendly objects. It's a simple idea, but by jove it's fun.

So, *Super Stardust*, are you worth purchasing, or should we just get a copy of the PD version of *Asteroids*; a version which remains faithful to the original arcade affair? Of course, computer games cannot speak for themselves, apart from *Valhalla* which might suggest that, "it doesn't fit", or "it doesn't work".

But *Super Stardust* has much to offer. For starters, it looks quite fabulous. The ray-traced alien craft are quite possibly the finest you'll ever see on the CD[32] while the end-of-level tunnel sequences perfectly complement the main attraction. Yes, complete a few screen's worth of flying boulders and you get to shoot through a splendid tunnel, 'a toute vitesse' as they say abroad somewhere. And in these end-of-level delights are an unfeasible amount of objects to avoid and power-ups to collect. The whole tunnel shebang happens rather quickly so one's wits must be present.

Yes, 30 knicker for an *Asteroids* clone is a bit pricey, but this is one of the best games available for the CD[32]. And you get an intro sequence involving spaceships on this version too.

MARVIN'S MARVELLOUS ADVENTURE

21st Century ■ 01235 851852 ■ £29.99

There is a problem here. Marvin, the star of the show, is quite possibly the least interesting character to appear in a platform game. He's a small, blond chap who apparently delivers pizza. But enough of the plot. You can jump on things, collect other things and run along ledges. The scrolling is smooth, the backgrounds colourful but it is linear, tedious and adds absolutely nothing to the genre. Competently dull, and rather easy.



Marvin can kick things, occasionally shoot things and ride on the back of glum caterpillars.



Words of wisdom. Marvin is packed to the gills with helpful little snippets.

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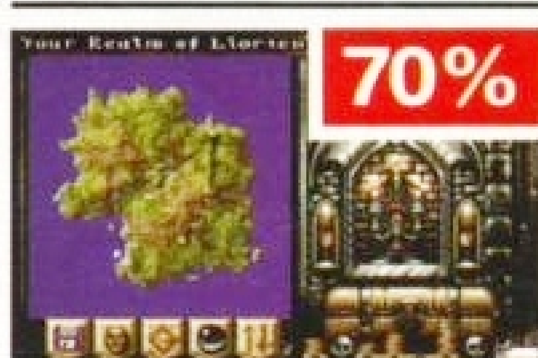
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Stephen Bradley looks at the latest trio of budget games to be released. But are they just three of a kind or could they be six of the best?

Re-Releases



Take over the world. Feed the people. Buy weapons. Aren't games supposed to be fun?

REALMS

Hit Squad 0161-832 6633
■ £12.99 ■ *AF32* 69%

Now some three years old, *Realms* returns on a budget outing. The box suggests that there are, "125,000 square miles of fractally-generated landscape". Well I'll go to the foot of the stairs.

Realms is a strategy game which looks a bit like a god game. Trying to rule the world can be very trying, particularly when there isn't a great deal of action to be had and the graphics are a little shabby. But try you must, in this isometric-viewed 3D affair. Financial allocation plays an important role as you attempt to keep the people fed while expanding your city and build up the arsenal.

Realms isn't bad, it's just that *Populous 2* and *Powermonger* are better.



DESERT STRIKE

Hit Squad 0161-832 6633
■ £12.99 ■ *AF46* 87%

The AH-64 is your craft of war; a developed tool; a coiled spring; a helicopter with guns and other things. *Desert Strike* preceded big brother *Jungle Strike* and impressive it remains. Your task – to negotiate your way through four huge missions before tackling the fearful General Kilbaba.

Despite unnecessary Gulf War overtones, *Desert Strike* is one of the best Amiga shoot-em-ups with-flight-sim-elements-in-it around. Tasks include destroying radar installations, airfields and anti-aircraft missiles and tactics play no small part.

A methodical, clinical approach to the game works best. And you have to rescue your own chaps who wander across the desolate plains – they shout: "over here", just to help you out. Hover above them and into the chopper they trot, just like in real life. Look at the map to check your position, slap the space bar to change your weapon selection then fly around and shoot things showing no mercy.

The 3D isometric view works mighty fine and the graphics and sound add to what is a most polished number. Despite the relatively short number of missions, the terrain differs and the tasks vary. A worthy addition to your software collection, indeed.



DESERT STRIKE: You have to complete several tasks – like blowing up a radar station – before you can finish a mission and progress.

DUNE II – BATTLE FOR ARRAKIS

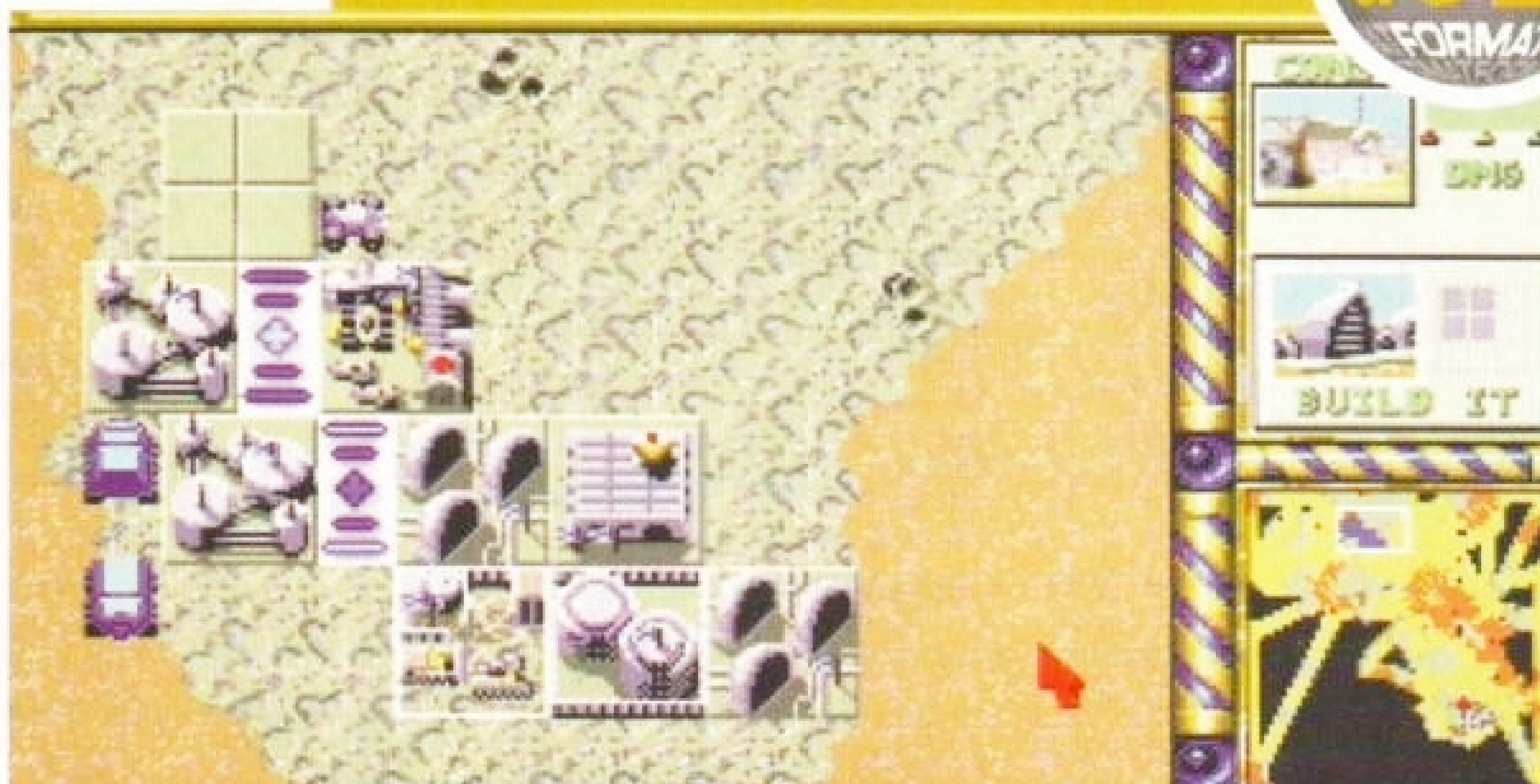
Hit Squad 0161-832 6633
■ £12.99 ■ *AF50* 90%

Tribes battle for the fine spice Melange in lands far away. Those that can produce the most spice will control the planet Dune. But not Terry. *Dune II – Battle For Arrakis* is not an easy game to label – it has elements of the god genre while there is enough artillery to sink a large ship. A god game with guns. And spice. That's it. The idea – mine spice, get money for spice, spend money on better mining equipment (to get more spice) and weapons, then take over the world.

If it weren't known as *Dune II* then strategy would be the name of the game. Despite the concise mission objectives (such as mine X amount, kill Terry and Dune), the means of achievement can be complex indeed.

As strategy/action games go, *Dune II – Battle For Arrakis* is atmospheric, addictive and playable. What more could one want?





DUNE II: With roughly 10 levels for each house it pays to invest in money and arms.

HIT NAMES - HIT GAMES FOR YOUR AMIGA

DUNE II

HE WHO CONTROLS THE SPICE... CONTROLS THE UNIVERSE.

Behold the planet Arrakis, known as Dune - land of sand and home of the spice 'Melange'. The spice controls the empire - whoever controls Dune controls the spice. The Emperor has proposed a challenge - 'The House that produces the most spice will control Dune, there are no territories...and no rules of engagement.'

Vast armies have arrived. Now three Houses fight for control of Dune. Only one House will prevail. Your Battle for Arrakis begins NOW.......

"Gorgeous graphics, incredible music & sound effects... frantic and exciting."

14.99
ST/AMIGA





DUNE II



BATTLE F



A SOCCER SIMULATION THAT COMBINES REALISM WITH FAST ARCADE ACTION!

* TWIN VIEWS - Select either FAST-ACTION TOP-DOWN or the realistic GRANDSTAND VIEW. Just hit the key and the switch is made - the game doesn't stop for a moment!
* TACTICS - Select one of the many, easy set up BUILT-IN-TACTICS options or DESIGN YOUR OWN!
* INTELLIGENT PASSING - Choose one of three different modes for pixel-perfect passing. Build up moves quickly and fluidly.
* SPECTACULAR - Large, SUPERBLY ANIMATED players look as if they're ready to burst out of your screen!
* REALISTIC - Variable wind direction, wind speed and pitch conditions that really INFLUENCE THE GAME-PLAY.
* ACTION REPLAYS - Select to replay in either GRANDSTAND or TOP-DOWN mode. Featuring FULL VIDEO CONTROLS (rewind, fast forward, freeze frame, slow motion). You can even change the camera angle during a replay to find out what was happening elsewhere on the pitch!

14.99
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EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS

DESERT STRIKE

Pilot your AH-64 helicopter against a ruthless tyrant.

With a fiery blast from your Hydra Rockets you must annihilate the military arsenal. Take out tanks, chemical weapons plants, airplanes and SCUDs. Get debriefings and plan missions on detailed maps. Pick up fuel, manage weapon supplies and feel the power of a modern, multi-million pound attack chopper.

"It's massively addictive." " You're going to have to go out and buy this."
AMIGA POWER 92%

"...you'll cherish this for a long time to come." AMIGA ACTION 90%

"Oozes playability - Desert Strike's as compulsive as they come."
AMIGA FORMAT 94%

14.99
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DESERT STRIKE
RETURN TO THE GULF
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DESERT STRIKE



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Screen shots taken from various computer formats.

SEND IT IN

If you have a hint, tip or cheat to share with other Amiga gamers, write to: Steve Bradley, GameBusters, *Amiga Format*, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath, Avon BA1 2BW. Or better still, send it on disk.

Once again, *Amiga Format* readers have sent us sackloads of gaming hints and tips. Steve Bradley sorts through the latest batch and adds a few of his own.

GameBusters

PREMIER MANAGER 3

AF66 85%
Gremlin (0114 275 3423)

Trouble at Town? All is not United? Have the Rovers disappeared? Not feeling Athletic? Does Wednesday feel like a Monday morning? Never fear. Help is at hand.

1. Start off with Halifax Town – they have the best strikers, so you should score more goals.
2. It's best to always play your best striker in the number nine shirt. It gives you the MSO or Maximum Scoring Opportunity.
3. Ensure defenders are on Long Shooting – they never score anyway.
4. Put your midfielders to Long Shooting, too.
5. Strikers are best on Medium Shooting, except the chap in the number nine shirt who should capitalise in the six yard box – put him on Short.
6. Don't sell youth team players – you may have a Noel Whelan in the ranks. Or perhaps a Ryan Giggs. Youth teams improve pretty quickly and help keep the age of the team low.
7. Ensure that all your squad, including the youth team players have got at least four matches under their belt by the season's close. Their statistics are more liable to improve in the ensuing break.



If, like us, you have struggled through a few seasons in the Conference without looking even vaguely like getting promoted, follow Gremlin's handy hints and you could have a winning team.

8. Set the defence's passing to about 70%. You don't want them dribbling up the field like a posh Italian side.
9. Set the midfielders' passing to about 60%.
10. And why not put the attackers' running to 75% with Short Passing.
11. Get the best staff available. They're better than the worst.
12. Try buying players over the phone – you can find out-of-contract players who are generally cheaper.
13. Fit players should always be in training. Ensure they are not drinking vast quantities of lager or coke.
14. If you can (and you really try), make sure the players' moral is at least seven. Bonuses are good –

Continued overleaf ➡



RUFF 'N' TUMBLE

Reviewed *AF64* 87%
Renegade (0171 481 9214)

Renegade's classy platformer *Ruff 'n' Tumble* is darned hard. So here are a few codes to help you out:
Level Two – 6581; Level Three – 3178; Level Four – 8392.

Stewart Hayden, Hornchurch, Essex

HELPING HAND

Are you frustrated? Don't get your joypad in a twist. Steve Bradley offers the soothing hand of friendship and solves all your gaming problems.

GOBSMACKED



The secret of *Monkey Island* is that there are loads of secrets and the odd monkey.

I'm having trouble getting past the bones in LeChuck's fortress in *Monkey Island 2*. I know I have to use the spit-encrusted paper but I don't know how. Help!

Allan Price, Kilmacolm, Renfrewshire

The spit-encrusted paper holds the words to the song from the dream sequence. Get some paper and write down the first three bodily parts of each verse in the given order (such as Verse 1 = Head, Hip, Leg). Go back the way you came; if you pass a wall with the body bits in the order of Verse 1 (such as Head, Hip, Leg), push it and walk through the gap. It may take some time to find a matching one but persevere.

LECHUCKING OUT TIME



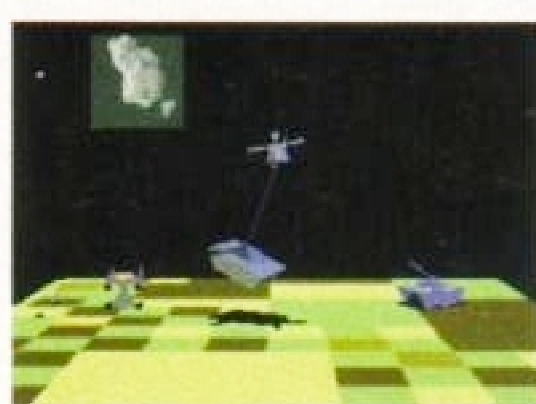
The best and most popular Amiga adventure game – *LeChuck's Revenge*.

I have reached Dinky Island in *Monkey Island 2* and I'm being pursued by LeChuck. I can't get away and I've been stuck for hours.

Phil Taylor, Suffolk

Pull the coin return on the grog machine and a coin will fall on the floor. When LeChuck comes in pick up the coin and then try to pick up LeChuck – you will rip off his underwear (one from the thread). Give him the handkerchief and he will blow his nose (one from the body). After he zaps you, go to the service elevator and get in. The helium-filled things in your inventory will make you lighter. Wait until LeChuck arrives before pulling the lever; the doors will close and trap a bit of his beard. When the lift stops, make sure you pick up the beard and then exit the lift. Put the other three relevant bits in the bag, then Guybrush will make a voodoo doll of LeChuck.

Continued overleaf ➡



ZEEWOLF

Jon Smith of Radstock, Somerset imparts some words of wisdom on our fabulous *Zeewolf* Coverdisk (*AF66*). When the game is loaded, choose the joystick as preferred control method but keep your mouse plugged in. If you ever need a quick burst of speed, bash the mouse button and off you go.

And there's more. As luck would have it, there is a tank placed on one of the islands. Hover over the little feller and press the H key. You can now pick up the tank and drop it in one of the danger zones and it will blast the enemy while you take the money and run.

And Binary Asylum supremo, Bob Wade, suggests that if you type FRAMPAGE, you can then fly the Kestrel – that's the little aeroplane. Oh, and if you're using mouse control, here's a handy hint for landing. Before touch down, switch to joypad control – this allows you to fly earthward at any angle, yet land smoothly.



The most difficult football management game ever? Certainly, it would seem so. Thankfully, Gremlin Interactive have sent us a few handy hints to enable a league-rising scenario.



West Riding glamour club, Halifax Town are the finest team in the Vauxhall Conference.

⬅ footie players love money more than the game.

Apart from Gordon Strachan.

15. Use the Player Loan facility as often as possible. You can abuse on-loan players till the cows come, erm, off the field. Also, reserve players in higher divisions may be better than your star players.

16. The better the gym is, the better the coaches perform.

17. The following list (split into divisions) is what you should aim for to allow you to maximise your revenue and support, while minimising fines and penalties.

Conference

Ground safety = 2 stars
Ground facility = Basic
Gym = None
Ground rating = 40%
League seat price = £5
League terrace price = £3
Cup seat = £8
Cup terrace = £5
Overdraft/loan = £250,000/£50,000

Division Three

Ground safety = 2 stars
Ground facility = Average
Gym = Basic
Ground rating = 50%
League seat price = £8
League terrace price = £5
Cup seat = £12
Cup terrace = £8
Overdraft/loan = £750,000/£100,000

Division Two

Ground safety = 3 stars
Ground facility = Good
Gym = Basic
Ground rating = 60%
League seat price = £12
League terrace price = £6
Cup seat = £18
Cup terrace = £9
Overdraft/loan = £2,000,000/£200,000

Division One

Ground safety = 4 stars
Ground facility = Excellent
Gym = Average
Ground rating = 70%
League seat price = £14
League terrace price = £8
Cup seat = £21
Cup terrace = £12
Overdraft/loan = £5,000,000/£500,000

Premiership

Ground safety = 4 stars
Ground facility = Excellent
Gym = Average
Ground rating = 80%
League seat price = £16
Cup seat = £24
Overdraft/loan = £8,000,000/£750,000

And finally, here's a couple of telephone numbers.

400040 – Gives players a higher fitness rate and better moral. They will also be two-footed (you know what we mean), so the folk you couldn't sell before are a much more attractive proposition. And there's more. The directors' debt is cleared so you can re-apply and the 'votes of confidence' are wiped. It also helps with insurance. Good number, eh?

343343 – This gives you extra money. Don't use any cheats from *Premier Manager 2* because you may crash the game.

⬅ Go back down in the lift, use the lever again and exit. Wait for LeChuck to arrive and then use the hypodermic needle on the new voodoo doll.

And the rest is up to you.

THAT SINKING FEELING

In *Operation Stealth*, we've reached the part where you can open the last door on floor three in the hotel. When you go in through the door, a girl points a gun at you, then two guards and a man identical to yourself comes in. You're taken out to sea, tied up and then thrown overboard. Now what do we do?

Terry, Stoke-on-Trent

You should have bought a bracelet in the hotel with your coins. When you are on the boat, Operate the bracelet and wait until you're thrown overboard. Once you hit the bottom, Operate the bracelet and wait for the girl to hit the seabed. When she does, Operate her (ooh missus!) and swim to the surface to be rescued.

ACROSS THE UNIVERSE

I'm having trouble on *Universe* because I can't find the PTV. I need it because it's got a six-number code which turns off the anti-theft device in the car. Help.

Christopher Ritchie, Arbroath, Scotland

Core's adventure hit shares its name with one of The Beatles' worst tunes.

Once you're on Gavric, walk to the northwest side of the screen and you'll find yourself in a square. Wait until the robot is off-screen then throw the mirror at the door with the lasers. The non-human occupant will tell you to see Silphinaa – use the panel by the top door and enter. Your conversation will be brief so attack the keypad on the right-hand side door with the metal bar and proceed upstairs. Open the wardrobe and wear the suit. Use the computer on the console above the bed, then use the console and open the shutter. Now jump out of the window and you will find the PTV. Hurrah. Grateful thanks to Anthony Kirvell for the info.

LEND A HAND

If you're having trouble with a particular game or have a solution to a letter printed in the magazine, don't keep it to yourself, write it down or send it in on disk and we'll try our best to print it.

Send it to: HELPING HAND, *Amiga Format*, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath, Avon BA12 2BW.

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G394 **SUPER BATTLE ZONE** - Clone of the classic 3D Battle Zone arcade game of the 80's.
G396 **PENGO 2** - Zip your Penguin buddy through the ice cave mazes squashing the baddies. Great fun.
G397-G398 (2 DISKS) **INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP** - Fantastic wrestling game for one or two players. Slams, punches, shoulder blocks, elbows, jump's off the ring post and loads of other bone crunching moves.
G399 **DYNAMITE WARRIORS 2** - Incredible Dynablasters clone. 1 to 4 player addictive arcade action. Not to be missed.
G400-G405 (6 DISKS) **THE ART OF BREAKING HEADS** - Massive beat-em-up with a choice of different characters with different abilities and special moves. One amazing game. WB 3.0+ ONLY. REQUIRES AT LEAST ONE MEG OF EXTRA FAST RAM TO RUN PROPERLY.
G406 **COLONIAL CONQUEST II** - Takes elements from Microprose's Civilization and implements them into this interplanetary strategy game of evolution and survival. NOT WB 1.3. REQUIRES 2 MEG.
G408 **TEAM TETRIS** - New Tetris variation that is played by two players at the same time. Requires cooperation between players.
G409 **AMBASSADOR FRUIT MACHINE V2.0** - Superb fruit machine game with all the bells and whistles you'll see in a modern day arcade. WB 3.0 ONLY.
G410-G411 (2 DISKS) **MISSILES OVER XERION** - Remember the classic game Missile Command. This is a complete overhaul of the original concept with new super cool graphics, power ups and amazing game play.
G412 **SWIMSUIT CARDS** - Cardset for Klondike Deluxe II and III.
G413 **STAR WARS CARDS** - Cardset for Klondike Deluxe II & III.
G414 **EMPIRE STRIKES BACK CARDS** - Cardset for Klondike Deluxe II and III.
G415 **RETURN OF THE JEDI CARDS** - Cardset for Klondike Deluxe II & III.
G417 **FAST CARS CARDS** - Cardset for Klondike Deluxe II & III.
G300 **VCHESS v3.1** - One of the strongest computer Chess games around, with more extra features than most commercial ones. NOT WB 1.3.
G419-G420 (2 DISKS) **STARWOIDS** - Inspired by the game Thrust and the Star Wars film trilogy, this is a real hot looking shareware game. Recently reviewed (and highly rated) in AF. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
G421 **TOP HAT WILLY** - Remember Jet Set Willy on the old 8 bit computers, well this platform game is based on that classic.
G322 **AUTO MOBILES** V1.11 - Skid Marks type racing game. More tracks, improved car control and loads of other improvements.
G366 **ELLE McPHERSON CARDSET** - Cards for Klondike Deluxe.
G371 **SUPER OBLITERATION** - Amazing Pang clone. Top game. Recently reviewed in Amiga Format.
G361-G364 (4 DISKS) **SPECTRUM GAMES 1-4** - Games for the Spectrum emulator.
G373-G378 (6 DISKS) **SPECTRUM GAMES 6-10** - More game for the Spectrum emulator.
G283-G285 (3 DISKS) **KLONDIKE DELUXE AGA** - Card game in 256 colours. Superb. Look out for the great cardsets. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
G442 **TMA** - Linear Sci Fi space puzzle shoot-em-up (what a mouthful!). Very good. NOT WB 1.3.
G387 **MONOPOLY v1.1** -Great computer conversion.
G383 **ROCKETZ** - 1 or 2 player spit screen Trust spin off. Utilises raytraced graphics for he ships. Wow. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
G455 **POWER BATTLE** - Thrust type blasting game.
G456-G457 (3 DISKS) **DEAD OF THE NIGHT** - Point and click adventure game. Superb.
G459 **SOLO ASSAULT** - Something like Wing Commander.
G460 **OBSTACLES** - Silly Putty type of platform game.
G461 **ULTIMATE QUIZ 2** - Pub quiz game.
G462 **BAZZA & RUNT AGA** - Top platform game. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
G463-G464 (2 DISKS) **JINX** - Original puzzle game. WB 3.0+ ONLY.

UTILITIES

U512 **AF COPY v4** - Directory Opus type file manager with configurational buttons. NOT WB 1.3.
U513 **256 COLOUR ICONS** - Give your Workbench an extra touch of class with these superb 256 colour icons. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
U514 **IMAGINE 3.0 TEXTURES GUIDE** - For Imagine 3.0 only.
U515 **MUI v2.2** - Due to popular demand, Multi User Interface. NOT WB 1.3.
U516-U517 (2 DISKS) **PAGESTREAM v3C PATCH** - Upgrades the earlier bug ridden version of Pagestream 3.
U518 **VIRTUAL MEMORY MANAGER V2.1** - Turns your hard drive into virtual memory which will increase your overall computer memory. Requires a 68040 or 68030 CPU with MMU. NOT WB 1.3.
U519-U520 (2 DISKS) **MAGIC WORKBENCH ICONS 3** - For Amiga users aspiring for that Workbench beautiful look. NOT WB 1.3.
U521 **VIDEOTRACKER 2 AGA** - Create amazing looking AGA demos with no coding experience. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
U522 **VIDEOTRACKER 2 OCS** - Videotracker for non AGA amiga's. NOT WB 1.3.
U523-U526 (4 DISKS) **VIDEO TRACKER EXTRAS** - Four disks full of extra effect routines and objects, etc...
U527 **FONT FARM 9** - Masses of Bitmap fonts for use with Deluxe Paint, Workbench, etc....
U528 **FONT FARM 10** - More lovely bitmap fonts.
U529 **HARD DRIVE GAME INSTALLERS** - Games installers for Alien Breed AGA, Assassin SE, Body Blows, Body Blows 2 ECS, Goal, Ishar 2, Ruff and Tumble, Super Stardust, Super Frog, Zool 2 ECS, Walker, Alien Breed 2 Tower Assault, Bubble & Squeak, Mortal Kombat II, Jungle Strike. NOT WB 1.3.
U310 **PAY ADVICE ANALSYER 4.2** - Shareware wage slip database. Limited shareware version. NOT WB 1.3.
U530 **AUTO STEREOGRAM v2.d** - Generates those amazing 3D random dot stereogram pictures. NOT WB 1.3.
U531 **ACTION REPLAY PRO** - Software Action Replay. Rip graphics, music, train games etc.... WB 3.0+ ONLY.
U532 **MORE 256 COLOUR ICONS** - Loads more great icons plus an AGA icon editor. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
U533 **ACCOUNT MASTER v3c** - Shareware personal accounts manager. Very professional with many features. Limited Shareware release. NOT WB 1.3.
U451 **SPECTRUM EMULATOR v2.0** - New version of the Spectrum emulator. Includes some games.
U434 **VIRUS WORKSHOP v4.5** - Just out. Powerful multi-function virus checker and killer. NOT WB 1.3.
U486 **DISK MAG CREATOR v1.21** - Produce your own disk magazines with ease.
U443 **AMIGA DOS GUIDE v1.0** - Provides useful help on what the DOS commands are and what they do. Plus many of the common Dos error codes explained in English, etc....
U437 **AMOS EXTENSIONS** - Seven great Amos/Amos Pro extensions adding more commands to both languages.
U449 **ZXAM SPECTRUM EMULATOR AGA v1.3** - Optimised Speccy emulator to run games as fast as possible. Includes games. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
U581 **MSDOS FOR AMIGADOS v2.3** - Adds MSDOS commands to AmigaDOS. For users torn between two computers. Hard drive only. Supports CrossDOS. NOT WB 1.3.
U342 **SUPERLEAGUE 3.51** - Football league database and statistics analyser.
U366 **TRONI CAD** - Schematic designing software.
U327 **DISKSALV 2** - Recovers corrupted data with various powerful procedures. Essential tool to have handy. NOT WB 1.3.
U423 **X BEAT PRO** - Drum kit music package.
U415 **FORCASTER v2.0b** - Horse racing prediction. NOT WB 1.3.
U412 **V MORPH v2.30** - For morphing pictures.
U158 **NO ERRORS** - Formats disks hiding, any fatal hard errors. Useful for hard drives with faulty tracks.
U582-U583 (2 DISKS) **EAGLE PLAYER v1.53f** - Powerful music module player. Suports just about every Amiga format known. Hard drive only. NOT WB 1.3.
U329 **EPU STAKKER** - Compressor that hides in the background of your Workbench. Can compress data up to 50%, doubling the capacity of your hard drive. NOT WB 1.3.
U281 **D-COPY 3.1** - Disk copier. A bit like X-Copy.
U591 **AMIGA FAX 1.40** - Latest shareware version of this excellent fax software for fax modems. Hard drive installation only.
U592 **RENDOA 1.5a** - Powerful image conversion programme. The more memory the better. NOT WB 1.3.
U580 **LOTTERY WINNER** - Take the indecision out of selecting your National Lottery numbers, and use this programme instead. Shareware. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
U598 **MULTI-PREDICTOR DEMO** - The gamblers ultimate companion for the lottery, horse racing, the pools and others.
U325 **OCTAMED v2.00** - The most powerful music composition software available from the Public Domain.
U314 **OCTAMED TUTOR** - An instruction and tutorial guide to using Octamed.
U304 **TEXT ENGINE v4.1** - Powerful shareware word processor with spell checker.
U382 **PRINTER DRIVER KIT** - 111 different printer drivers. Phone us to find out if your printer is supported.
U311 **EASY CALC PLUS** - Shareware spread sheet. NOT WB 1.3.
U324 **J C GRAPH** - Graph creator.
U281 **D COPY 3.1** - Disk duplication software.
U283 **LOCK PICK v2** - Removes protection from loads of games.
U447 **ULTIMATE DEGRADERS** - All the best AGA computer degraders to get those old subborn programmes running. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
U345 **REORG V3.11** - Floppy and hard drive optimiser. Reorganises data for faster access. NOT WB 1.3.

DEMOS

D228 **BEAUTY PACK 1** - Collection of the best intro's around. Intro's are mini demos.
D229 **BEAUTY PACK 2** - More great intro's for demo collectors.
D230 **BEAUTY PACK 3** - Another well presented pack of intro's.
D231 **BEAUTY PACK 4** - The last in the series of intro's from the top euro coding groups.
D232 **BAD ZOOM** - Rubbish visuals but funky music track. I like it!
D233 **TRACKERS 242** - Great follow up to the original ground breaker. If you only have 2 meg, disable all external drives (inc. HD's). WB 3.0+ ONLY.
D234 **VITAL** - From up and coming coding group, Mystic. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
D235-D237 (3 DISKS) **MAXIMUM OVERDRIVE II** - One impressive RAGE production. If you remember Maximum Overdrive you'll have an idea of what to expect. This is 100 times better. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
D238 **BAZZA & RUNT** - A must get demo. Real cool. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
D239 **BALLABORNTRO** - Wicked rave demo. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
D240-D241 (2 DISKS) **ARTIFICE** - From the veteran coders, TRSI. Surprisingly their first AGA demo. Wow. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
D242-D243 (2 DISKS) **INFECT** - Works best with some extra fast memory added.Get ready the be impressed. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
M156 **SWAMP THING** - Mix of the chart single. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
D217 **POLKA BROTHERS "GEVALIA"** - Great new demo.
D219-D220 (2 DISKS) **ARTIFICIAL PARADISE** - More spectacular effects. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
D221-D222 (2 DISKS) **LETHAL DOSE 2** - Don't miss this amazing demo. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
D223-D224 (2 DISKS) **SWITCHBACK** - From Rebels. Some amazing routines, especially the roller coaster. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
D226 **GIMME ALCOHOL** - What we call in the trade a dentro, a demo/intro combination. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
D227 **JAMMIN** - Good use of the AGA in producing colourful pattern effects. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
D188-D189 (2 DISKS) **BIG TIME SENULALITY** - Still popular. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
D174-D175 (2 DISKS) **NINE FINGERS** - Spaceball's ground breaking demo.
M159 **VENTILLATOR** - Rave till to drop. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
M160 **MUSIC MAYHEM** - Funk, rave, ragga and others.
M157-M158 (2 DISKS) **STAR TREK THEMES** - Theme music to the Star Trek and The Next Generation. For trekie fans.
D244-D245 (2 DISKS) **MY MAMMA IS A VAMPIRE** - Weird title, but some original demo routines. WB 3.0+ ONLY.

SLIDESHOWS

S156-S158 (3 DISKS) **BODY SHOP 8** - Glamour slideshow. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
S159-S161 (3 DISKS) **CLAUDIA SCHIFFER 94** - Glamour slideshow. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
S137-S139 (3 DISKS) **GIRLS GIRLS GIRLS** - Glamour slideshow. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
S140-S142 (3 DISKS) **CLAUDIA SCHIFFER SLIDESHOW, THE WORKS** - The super model. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
S143-S145 (3 DISKS) **ELLE McPHERSON SLIDESHOW, THE WORKS** -Another super model. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
S146-S148 (3 DISKS) **CINDY CRAWFORD SLIDESHOW, THE WORKS** - Richard Gere's missus. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
S149-S150 (2 DISKS) **FANATICS GUIDE TO COMPUTERS** - Comic slides showing you what happens when obsessive users go that little bit too far. Very funny.
S151 **LINGERIE 1** - Models in lingerie. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
S152 **LINGERIE 2** - More of the same. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
S153 **LINGERIE 3** - More of the same. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
S154 **LINGERIE 4** - More of the same. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
S155 **LINGERIE 5** - More of the same. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
S134-S136 **NLP RENDERSHOW** - Captivating raytraced Sci Fi pictures. Reviewed in last month Amiga Format. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
S121 **BEACH BABES 1** - Swim suits and bikinis. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
S122 **BEACH BABES 2** - More of the same. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
S123 **BEACH BABES 3** - More of the same. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
S124 **BEACH BABES 4** - More of the same. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
S125 **BEACH BABES 5** - More of the same. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
S119 **ERIKA ELENIAK** - Ex - Bay Watch beauty. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
S120 **UNPLEASANT WAYS TO DIE** - Unexpected ways to top yourself. Sick and funny.

SOUND SAMPLES

U599 **BREAKING** - Smashinhg and breaking sounds.
U600 **HUMAN** - Voices, raps, shouts etc.
U601 **EFFECTS** - Many different types of sound effects.
U602 **EFFECTS 2** - More in the series.
U603 **EFFECTS 3** - More in the series.
U604 **EFFECTS 4** - More in the series.
U605 **EFFECTS 5** - More in the series.
U606 **KEYBOARDS** - From Mini Moog to Wavestation.
U607 **KEYBOARDS 2** - More in the series.
U608 **KEYBOARDS 3** - More in the series.
U609 **KEYBOARDS 4** - More in the series.
U610 **KEYBOARDS 5** - More in the series.
U611 **KEYBOARDS 6** - More in the series.
U612 **LOOPS** - Drum loops, etc.
U613 **LOOPS 2** - More in the series.
U614 **LOOPS 3** - More in the series.
U615 **LOOPS 4** - More in the series.
U616 **STRINGS** - Stringed instrument samples.
U617 **STRINGS 2** - More in the series.
U618 **STRINGS 3** -More in the series.
U619 **STRINGS 4** - More in the series.
U620 **PERCUSSION** - HiHats, Cymbals, etc.
U621 **PERCUSSION 2** - More in the series.
U622 **PERCUSSION 3** - More in the series.
U623 **PERCUSSION 4** - More in the series.
U624 **PIANOS**
U625 **PIANOS 2** - More in the series.
U626 **SYNTHS** - Analogue sounds, Keyboard bleeps, etc.
U627 **SYNTHS 2** - More in the series.
U628 **SYNTHS 3** - More in the series.
U629 **SYNTHS 4** - More in the series.
U630 **SYNTHS 5** - More in the series.
U631 **SYNTHS 6** - More in the series.
U632 **SYNTHS 7** - More in the series.
U633 **SYNTHS 8** - More in the series.
U634 **SYNTHS 9** - More in the series.
U635 **VOCALS, VOICES & PEOPLE**
U636 **VOCALS, VOICES & PEOPLE 2** - More in the series.
U637 **VOCALS, VOICES & PEOPLE 3** -More in the series.
U638 **VOCALS, VOICES & PEOPLE 4** - More in the series.
U639 **VOCALS, VOICES & PEOPLE 5** - More in the series.
U640 **VOCALS, VOICES & PEOPLE 6** - More in the series.
U441 **ALARMS & WARNING SOUNDS**
U442 **BASS**
U443 **BASS 2** - More in the series.
U444 **DRUMS & SNARES**

MISCELLANEOUS

T76 **THE CHARTS ISSUE #13** - The demo charts and general disk magazine with many articles. Very well presented.
T77-T78 (2 DISKS) **MOVIE GUIDE (1994) V2.04** - Massive database on movies for film buffs. Hard drive installation only. NOT WB 1.3.
T79-T80 (2 DISKS) **CHEAT LISTER v3.05** - The largest compilation of game cheats and tips you'll probably ever find. 800 games covered. NOT WB 1.3.
T71 **DEADLOCK 9** - The SCENE disk magazine. Kewl.
T72 **UPSTREAM 9** - Another top Scene magazine with loads of up to date news and more.
T74-T75 (2 DISKS) **GRAPEVINE 20** - Needs no introduction. The latest issue of the most sort after Amiga disk mag around.
T67-T68 (2 DISKS) **LUCIFER'S BOOK OF SHADES** - Secrets from the occult. OVER 18'S ONLY.
T69 **LUCIFER'S WICKED GRIMOIRE** - More information and practices of the occult. OVER 18'S ONLY.
T28 **DREAMS FOR AN ANGEL** - Reveals the signicance of objects, colours, animals, etc.. in your dreams.
T36 **ALIEN CONFIDENTIAL** - Information refering to Alien activities, cover ups and other real life ET phenomena.
T81 **ALIENS CONFIDENTIAL 2** - Compiled by us. The long awaited follow up. Fascinating true to life UFO related material.
T73 **BACK DOOR v3.47** - 100's of tips and cheats for the lastest Amiga games.

EDUCATION

E97 **NIGHT MATH ATTACK** - Shoot-em-up maths game.
E95 **KIDS DISK 5** - Educational games for kids by D.Moran.
E96 **KIDS DISK 6** - More excellent games for juniors.
E80 **DYNAMIC SKIES** - Powerful astronomy programme.
E71 **CHILDRENS FAVOURITES 1** - Nursery rhymes.
E53 **CHILDRENS FAVOURITES 2** - More nursery rhymes.
E59 **STARVIEW** - Plots the positions of the stars and planets.
E60 **PRO ASTROLOGY** - An aid for horoscope predictions.
E81 **ANIMAL LAND** - Farm yard childrens game. NOT WB 1.3.
E44 **THE MATHS ADVENTURE** - Maths problems adventure game.
E36 **STEAM ENGINE ANIMATION** - Detailed cross section anim.
E37 **FOUR STROKE PETROL ENGINE** - Cross section animation.
E42 **TUBOFAN & TURBO JET ENGINES** - Aeroplane engines.
E98-E99 (2 DISKS) **PHOTOGRAPHIC LECTURE** - Multimedia. NOT WB1.3.
E100-E101(2 DISKS) **WEATHER GUIDE** - Multimedia. NOT WB 1.3.

ANIMATIONS

A179-A185 (8 DISKS) **TRIP IN A VEIN** - Microcosm style flight through a vein with a space craft. 71 amazing frames of animation. Reviewed in the November issue of Amiga Format. 6 megabytes of memory required. WB 3.0+ ONLY.
A169 **SUICIDE MAN 2** - Sick humour. Requires 1.5 meg. Avoid is easily offended.

IMAGINE

FOR ALL YOUR RAYTRACING NEEDS!!!!!

IMAGINE OBJECTS

U453 **FURNITURE OBJECTS** - Tables, chairs, cabinets, etc.
U454 **HOUSEHOLD OBJECTS** - Items you may well find around the home.
U462-U463 (2 DISKS) **SCIENCE FICTION OBJECTS** - Tron Light cycles and tanks, space stations and space ships, etc....
U464-U466 (3 DISKS) **ARCHITECHURE OBJECTS** - Houses, skyscraper, colosseum, and other types of man made structure.
U467-U469 (3 DISKS) **CAR OBJECTS** - Vehicles of all sorts, road vehicles to Formula One racing cars.
U470 **INSECT OBJECTS** - Creepy crawlies.
U471 **DINOSUAR OBJECTS** - Prehistoric beasts.
U472 **ANIMAL OBJECTS** - Many types of mammals.
U452 **BABYLON 5 OBJECTS** - Loads of ships from the top TV series.
U460-U461 (2 DISKS) **AIRCRAFT OBJECTS** -From World War 1 Biplanes to modern day Stealth Fighters. Loads of aircraft from history.
U597 **COMPUTER OBJECTS** - Objects of your favourtite computer.
U455-U456 (2 DISKS) **STAR TREK OBJECTS** - From the orginal and new series.



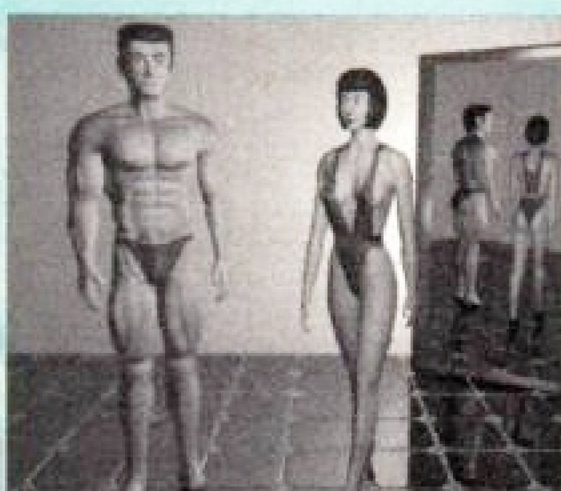
U457-U459 (3 DISKS) **STAR WARS OBJECTS** X-Wing, Y-Wing, Scout walker, Death Star, Tie Fighters, And loads more.

IMAGINE TEXTURES

U479 **IMAGINE MISCELLANEOUS TEXTURES** - Textures for Imagine.
U480-U482 (3 DISKS) **IMAGINE STONE TEXTURES** - Textures for Imagine.
U483 **IMAGINE WOOD TEXTURES** - Textures for Imagine.
U484 **IMAGINE ORGANIC TEXTURES** - Textures for Imagine.

IMAGINE BUDDY SYSTEM

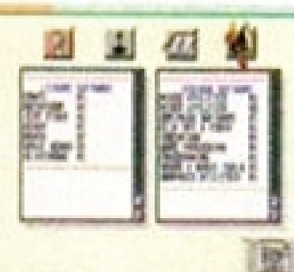
Used in conjunction with Imagine 2.0 for the ultimate Imagine tutorial and reference guide. Every single function is detailed in great depth. Essential.
DISK REFERENCE: U476-U477 (2 DISKS)



U593-596 (4 DISKS) **HUMANOID OBJECTS** - Men, Women, body parts.

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ASSASSINS GAMES 1 - 200 AVAILABLE
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HARD DISK TOOLS V2

Compiled by the N.A.U.G
The very best Hard Disk tools: Clickable menus, Repairers, Installers, Backup programmes, and more. Contains:

HD Click v2.60.	MR Backup.
ABackup v4.06.	HD Mem v1.0.
Superlock.	HD Installer
v1.04. AF Copy.	AND MANY OTHERS!

DISK REF: U501-U503 (3 DISKS)
NOT WB 1.3 COMPATIBLE

COMMS CONNECTED

A mighty collection of comms programmes for new users on 8 disks:
Ncomm v3.0.
Terminus 3.0d.
Term 4.1a.
Guide To Comms.
Internet Guide.
Trapdoor. And much more.
DISK REFS: U572-578.
NOT WB 1.3 COMPATIBLE

VIRUS EXTERMINATORS V2

Compiled by the N.A.U.G
All the best and best virus killers on 2 disks. Contains:
Virus Checker v6.43.
Boot X v5.23B (with latest v2.18 Brain file).
Virus Workshop v3.90.
Virus Z II v1.90.
DISK REFS: U499-U500.
NOT WB 1.3 COMPATIBLE

GROUND ZERO

CD ROMS

WEIRD SCIENCE CLIPART
Over 26,000 Amiga and PC compatible clipart files. Bitmap IFF's, Coloured IFF's, Proclips, Pagestream and Pagesetter, EPS & IMG.
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ASSASSINS GAMES
The complete Assassins games disk from 1-200. This comes to 650+ great games.
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AMOS PD LIBRARY
The entire range of official Amos PD software titles, 1,600 source code files, 800 game sound, 100 sprite banks, and more. For all Amos fans everywhere.
PRICE: 17.95 +£1.00 P&P.

AMINET 4
Games, Utilities, music modules, Demos, Pictures. Just every-thing Amiga. All downloaded from the Aminet. All the files some of the latest PD around.
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HOTTEST 4
The latest Mega demos, games, utilities, slideshows, anima-tions, education, AGA titles, IFF pics, sund samples, music modules, ETC..
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900 directories containing 18,800 files. Bitmap fonta, compugraphics fonts, Postscrpt and True Type and Pagestream & ProDraw outlines fonts, and much more.
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NEW

CLR GAMES

CLG5 **TRUCKING ON II** - Company management game. You run a transport firm. 2 DISKS. PRICE £4.95.
CLG7 **IMBRIUM - DAY OF REKONING** - Arcade adventure game. Somthing like Finders Keepers and Spellbound on the C64. 1 DISK. PRICE £3.95.
CLG21 **FLOWER POWER** - Gardening game for children. 1 DISK. PRICE £3.95.
CLG22 **STOCKING FILLERS** - A number of Christmas related games. 1 DISK. PRICE £3.95. NOT WB 3.0+.
CLG24 **EASY MONEY** - Fruit machine game. 1 DISK. PRICE £3.95.
CLG25 **WHITE RABBITS** - Excellent platform puzzle game. 1 DISK. PRICE £3.95.
CLG27 **SHYMER** - Graphic text adventure for children. 1 DISK. PRICE £3.95.
CLG28 **TIME RIFT** - Top rated platform shoot-em-up. 1 DISK. PRICE £3.95.
CLG31 **DIRTY RACKETS** - 21st century bat and ball game. 1 DISK. PRICE £3.95.
CLG35 **OG!** - Prehistoric platform game. 1 DISK. PRICE £3.95.
CLG38 **QUINGO** - Pub quiz game. 1 DISK. PRICE £3.95.
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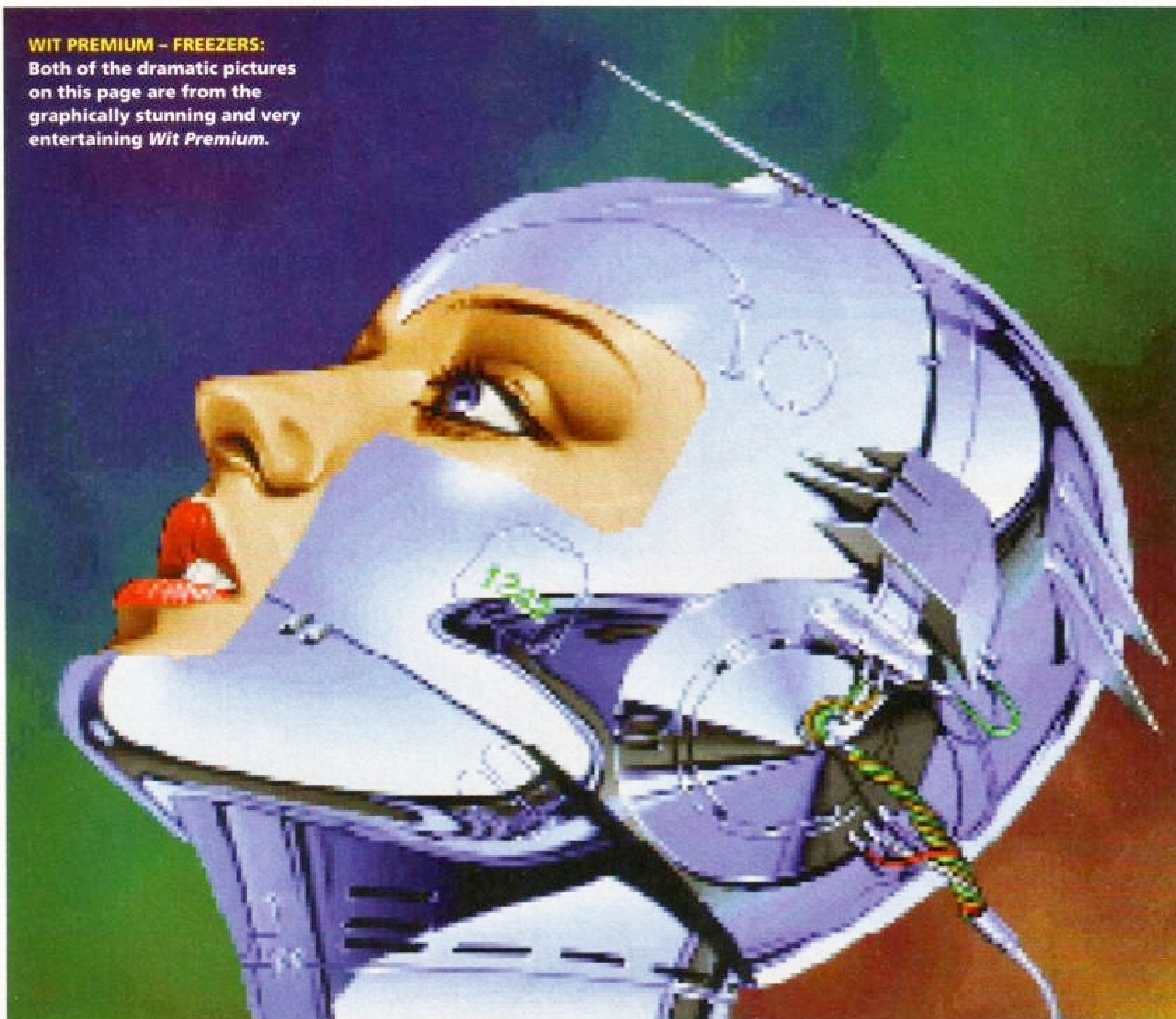
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This month, **Steve McGill** delves into the cyber world of mags on disks and finds himself pleasantly surprised by the result and **Jason Holborn** uncovers a wealth of quality software just waiting to be snapped up for the price of a disk.

PD Select

Welcome to the new-style PD section of *AF*. We hope that we're able to engage your interest with the new retina-massaging bite-sized chunky box design. Not to mention the superfluously over-inflated wordsmithing...



WIT PREMIUM – FREEZERS: Both of the dramatic pictures on this page are from the graphically stunning and very entertaining *Wit Premium*.

WIT PREMIUM – FREEZERS

(Freestyle PD)

From the start, *Wit Premium* establishes itself as something at least a bit different, verging on entertaining.

The music is a little pompous, but in the way that Wagner's *Ride Of The Valkyrie* could be considered pompous. It declares the demo open and then proceeds to take you on an accelerated journey through demo land. The music is fast, high-energy stuff that doesn't manage to grate through constant repetition. It changes enough to be listenable to all the way through.

What's more, when the first major polygonal rift journey through an imaginary set of buildings starts, the music complements the visuals in an intense burst of manic synchronicity. Very effective, if not very impressive.

Admittedly, *Wit Premium* doesn't have a great deal of engaging narrative to hold it together in the way that, say *Mina Omistan* does. But they're completely different kinds of demos and deserve to be judged differently.

It's the energy of *Wit Premium*'s music and visuals that carry it so that it is entertaining from start to end – no swirly vector patterns or starfields or other effects that have been seen since the dawn of creation.

Even more engagingly, the credits and greetings are all stuck on at the end. So it doesn't feel as if the designers and coders are getting in your face.

Medium to high recommendation for this one.

OPERATION FIRESTORM

(F1 Licenceware)

Like many Amiga owners, I harbour a secret obsession for classic 8-bit games. So much so, in fact, that my home still plays host to some of the classic 8-bit micros – the C64, Spectrum, Oric1 and even an Atari 800. My aged Spectrum still sees quite a bit of service thanks to one game – *Green Beret*. Originally released by Ocean, *Green Beret* is one of those 8-bit games that – although technically very simple – has bucketloads of gameplay.

And PD programmer P Ruston has attempted to relive the glory days of *Green Beret* with the launch of his brand new Licenceware release, *Operation Firestorm*. Available for just £3.99 from F1 Licenceware, *Operation Firestorm* features some of the best graphics and sound yet to be found in a PD game.

Like *Green Beret*, the idea is to guide a lone Rambo-like soldier through five massive horizontally-scrolling levels, blasting any enemy soldiers that are unfortunate enough to get in your way.

Armed with just a simple single-shot rifle at the start of the game, our hero can pick up all manner of power ups, such as flame throwers and missile launchers. You'll certainly need these power ups too as the game is very, very tough. In all, *Operation Firestorm* is £4 well spent.

SUPERVIEW

(KEW-II)

It's very rare to find a picture viewing utility that offers anything particularly new – AGA, 24-bit support and fancy fades and wipes have been done to death – so you can imagine my surprise when *SuperView* dropped on to my desk entombed in a jiffy bag from KEW-II Public Domain.

Unlike most picture viewing programs, *SuperView* owes much to image processing programs like ASDG's

Continued overleaf ➡

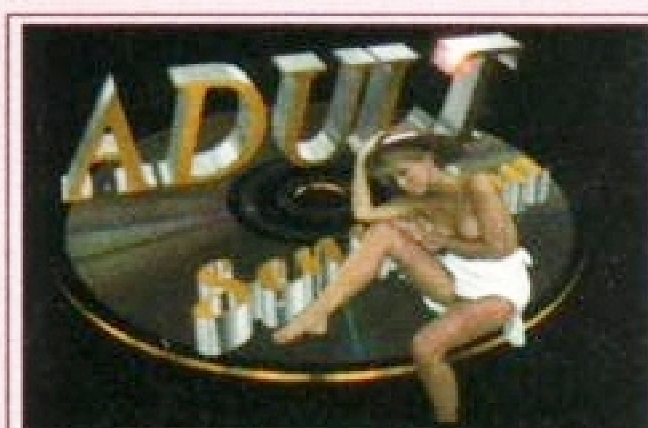


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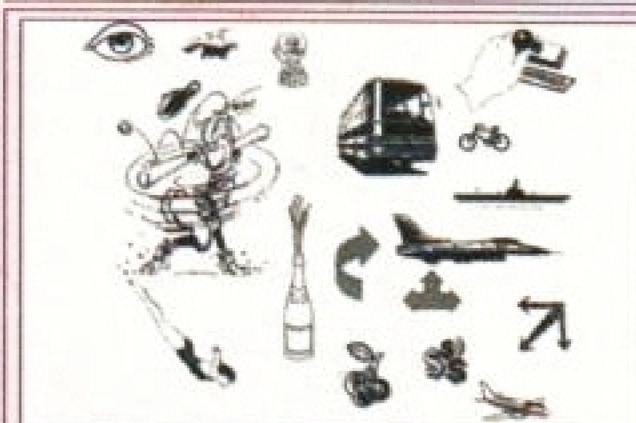
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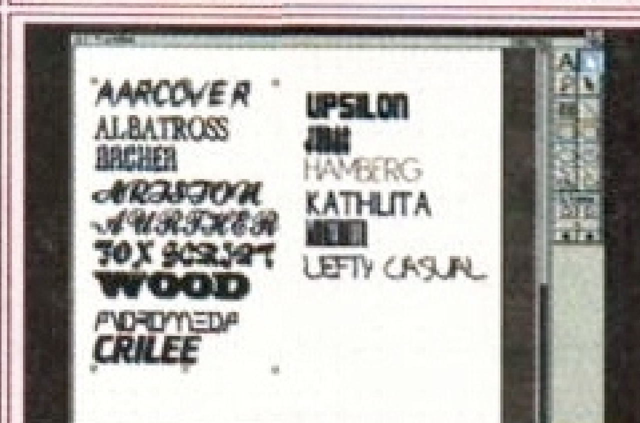
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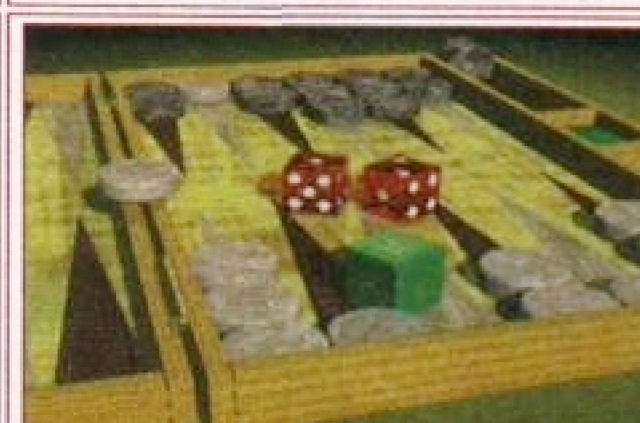
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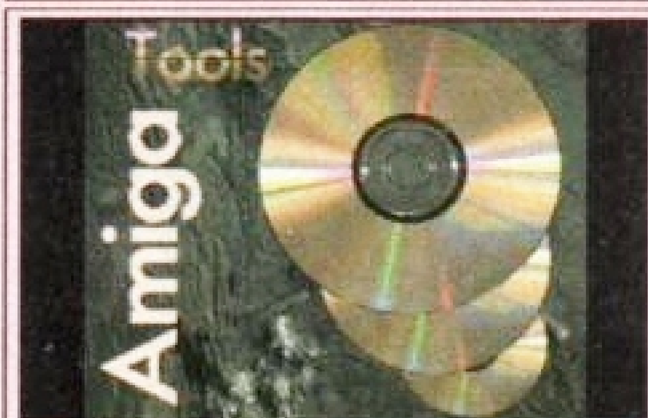
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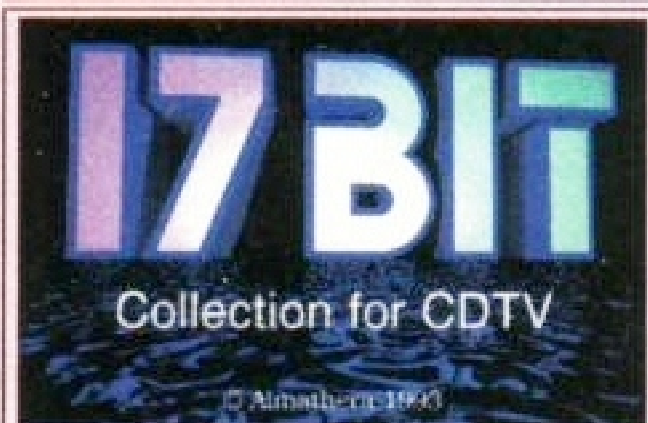
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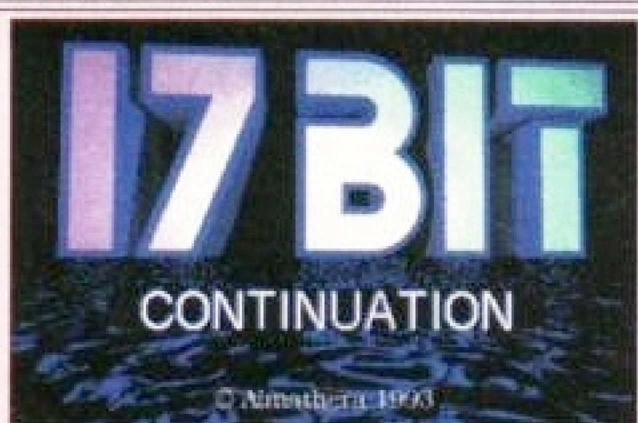
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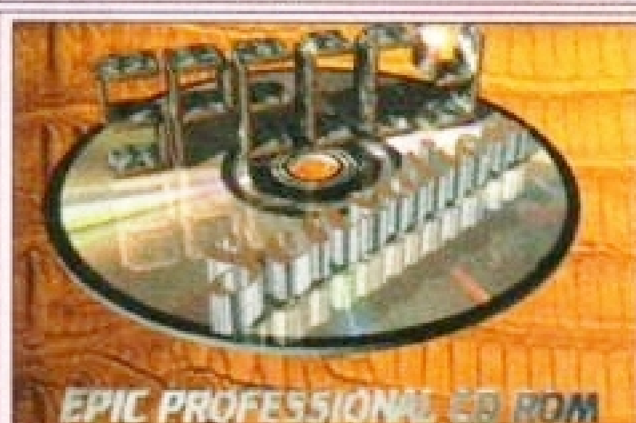
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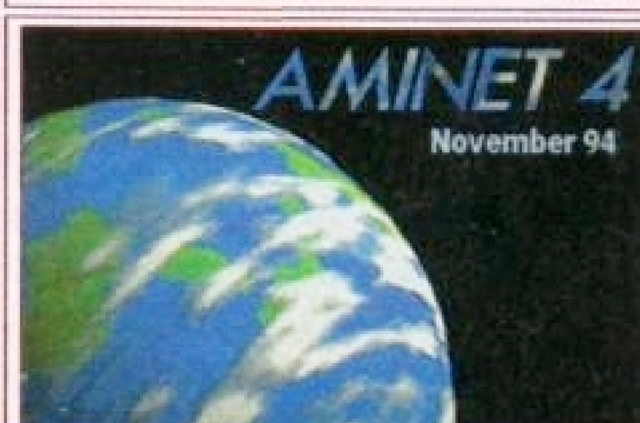
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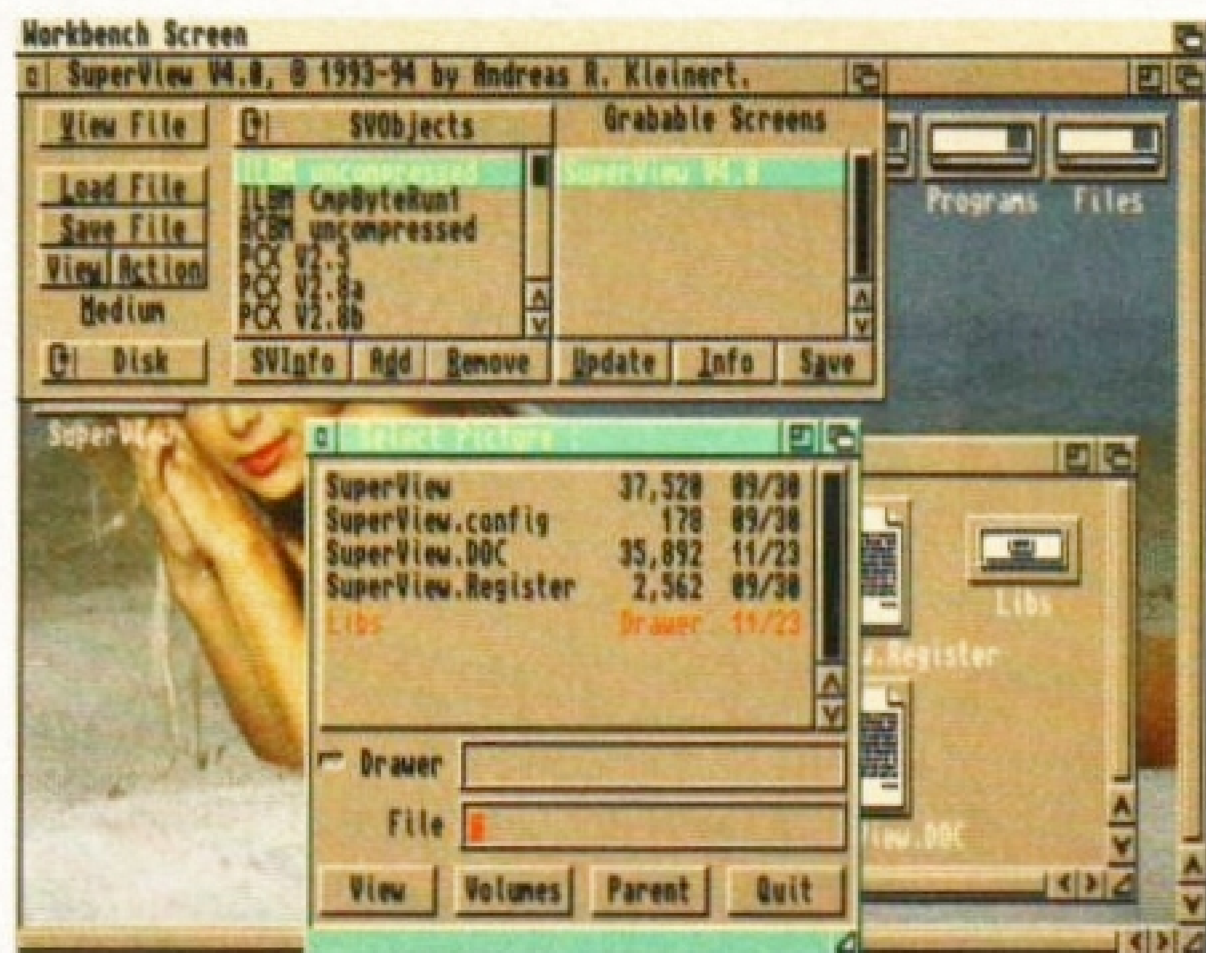
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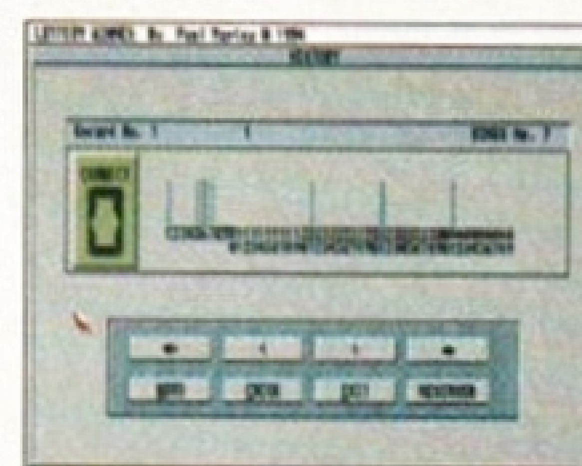
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Art Department Professional because it can handle not only IFF format images, but a whole range of other image formats too using *ADPro* like image loaders which need only be dropped into the appropriate drawer for *SuperView* to know of their existence.

SuperView has a wide range of additional loaders to handle such image formats as GIF, PCX, JPEG, BMP, TIFF and TARGA. What's more, new loaders can quite easily be added at a later date making *SuperView* a truly modular program.

SuperView can do a lot more than just display pictures, however. Once you've loaded an image into the program, you can then save it to disk in any one of the supported loader formats. You could, for example, load an image in PCX format and then save it off as a JPEG file.

Amiga Format subscribers will be pleased to learn that *SuperView* is on this month's Subscribers' Superdisk.

LOTTERY WINNER

(OnLine PD)

If you're one of the millions of Britains that have gone National Lottery bonkers then you simply have to get your hands on a copy of OnLine PD's *Lottery Winner* (alternatively, *AF* subscribers will find it on this month's Subscribers' Superdisk).

Since the country went lottery mad back in mid November, we've received loads of utilities designed to generate numbers suitable for a National Lottery game card. Big deal – how hard can it be to write a utility that generates seven random numbers?

Lottery Winner, on the other hand, is an entirely different ball (lottery?) game. OK, so it too can generate numbers for your lottery cards but – unlike its lesser rivals – *Lottery Winner* also analyses winning numbers from the past to predict the most likely combinations. Simply feed it each week's lottery numbers and *Lottery Winner* does the rest.

Lottery Winner also lets you view the frequency of numbers over a set period of time so you can see at a glance what numbers keep cropping up time and time again. OK, so you could quite easily do this yourself with a bit of graph paper, but hey – using your Amiga is a lot more fun.

F1GP-ED

(All good PD libraries)

If you're a fan of Microprose's *Formula One Grand Prix* then you'll love Oliver Roberts' new editor utility. Available from all good Public Domain libraries (the author sent us our copy direct), version 2.3 of *F1GP-ED* is all you need to customise your copy of Microprose's brilliant 3D racing game.

Running from a friendly Workbench-based front end, *F1GP-ED* lets you design the look and performance of racing cars and customise pit crews and helmets, plus you can alter how the computer-controlled cars drive and respond.

Also included is a sample data file which converts your copy of *F1 Grand Prix* so that it plays like the real-life 1994 season.

Using Oliver's data file, you can compete against the likes of Damon Hill and Michael Schumacher – who knows, perhaps you could rewrite history so that our Damon wins the world championship!

Oliver has put a great deal of work into ensuring that the modified game is as close to the real thing as possible. As a result, the computer-controlled cars achieve much faster lap times so you'd better be blessed with the driving skills of Nigel Mansell if you want to be in with a chance of winning Oliver's modified *F1 Grand Prix*.

WORKBENCH 2/3 SYSTEM UTILITIES

(KEW-II)

Barely a month goes by without yet another compilation of Workbench 2.0 and 3 utilities landing on my desk. This latest compilation contains five of the best utilities released over the past couple of months. Here's a quick run down of what's on offer.

NewAlert2 – This utility (which *AF* subscribers will find on their free Subscribers' Superdisk) is designed to demystify those dreaded Guru messages that your Amiga displays when something goes wrong. Simply stick it into your WBStartUp and whenever a Guru number is displayed, *NewAlert2* tells you exactly what went wrong. Simple but very useful.

SIP 2.18 – *SIP* is a quick and very easy to use system monitor utility similar in design to the infamous *ARTM*. Boasting a full (but, it has to be said,

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GRAPEVINE

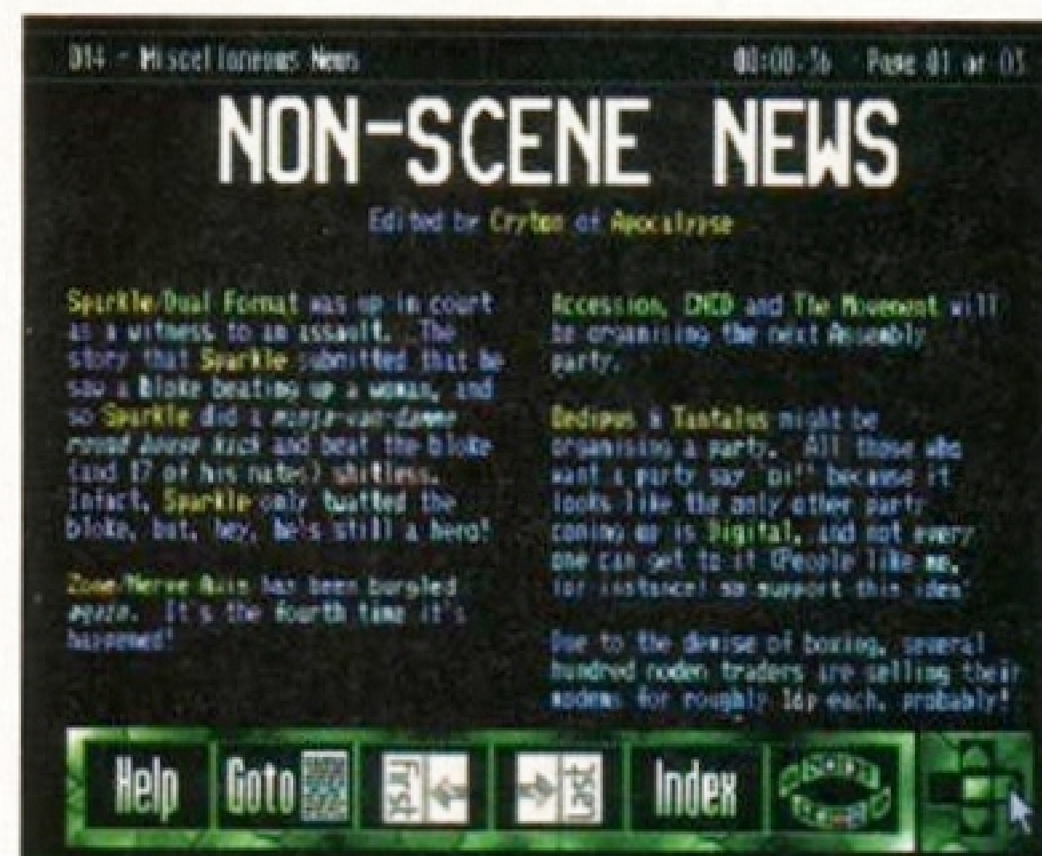
Issue 20 (17 Bit Software)

If *Grapevine* is your first foray into the underworld of disk magazines, then prepare to have your eyes opened with all the subtlety of a rusty crowbar opening a box of spent matches.

***Grapevine* comes on two disks and is packed with very useful and illuminating information, contacts, and insights into the elitist, arrogant but intelligent with it, sub-culture of the demo, coding and modem scene.**

Although it's easy enough to navigate through the various pages, it is very text-heavy which will be a trifle tiresome for all but the most enthusiastic lovers of the Amiga.

Despite the word blindness that set in after browsing through the magazine for an hour and a bit, *Grapevine* should be checked out by anyone with more than a casual interest in the Amiga. Recommended.



GRAPEVINE: **The name may not be that original but the information within certainly is.**

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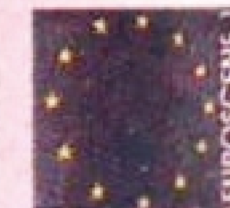
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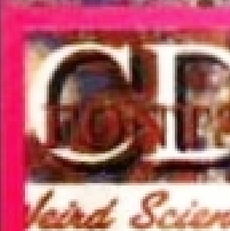
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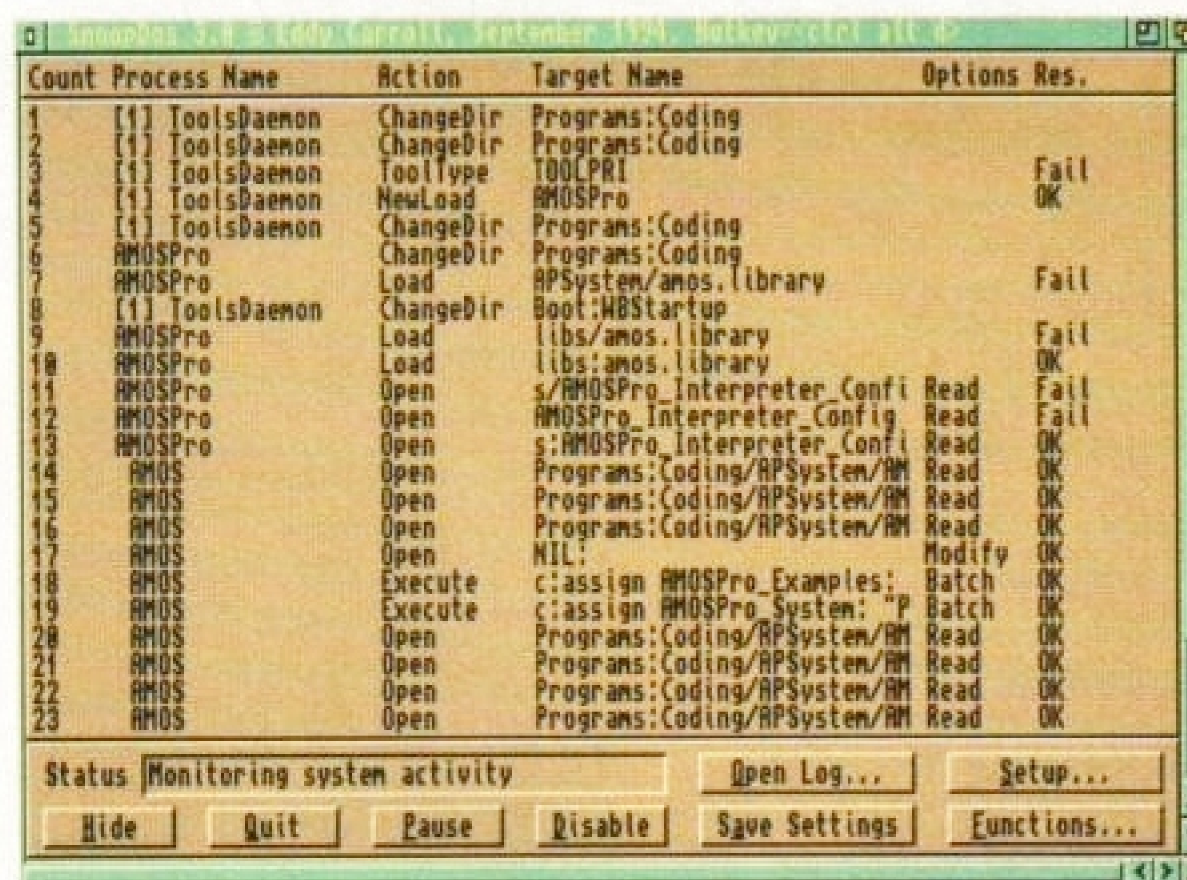
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F1 039	TWO CAN PLAY
F1 038	AMBASSADOR PRO
F1 037	SUPER BINGO V2
F1 036	MONEY CASCADE
F1 035 (3)	CHILLY CHAVEZ
F1 034	F1 CHALLENGE V2
F1 033	POWERPLANNER V1.1
F1 032	WORD POWER V2.0
F1 031	POWERBASE V3.30
F1 030	FORTRESS 1 MEG
F1 029 (2)	AERO DIE NAMIX
F1 028	CLINDEX V1.0
F1 027	THE STATES OF EUROPE
F1 026	TAKE A LOOK AT EUROPE
F1 025 (2)	ART SCHOOL V1.1
F1 024	MATHS MONKEY
F1 023	PICK N STICK
F1 022	ASK ME ANOTHER
F1 021	MULTIPLAYER YAHTZEE
F1 020	IMPACT
F1 019	TOUCH N GO
F1 018 (4)	RELICS OF DELDRONEYE
F1 017	F1 MUSIC VOL #1
F1 016	ART SCHOOL
F1 014	TOTS TIME
F1 013	THROUGH THE RED DOOR



F1GP-ED: Oliver Roberts' *F1 Grand Prix* editor lets you customise just about every aspect of Microprose's brilliant racing game.



WORKBENCH 2/3 SYSTEM: Examine the inner most workings of your Amiga with *SnoopDOS 3.0*.

⬅ rather slow) Workbench 2.0 front end, *SIP* lets you peek at your system's libraries, fonts, vectors, hardware, resources and so on.

SnoopDOS 3.0 – The star of last month's *Amiga Format* Subscribers' Superdisk, *SnoopDOS 3.0* is the most powerful DOS monitor available. It provides a simple way of monitoring what files and resources a program expects to find when it is loading.

But *SnoopDOS* really comes into its own when you are installing software on to a hard disk because you can see at a glance what files it expects to find in order to load correctly.

SysInfo – No compilation is complete without Nic Wilson's *SysInfo*, a utility that lets you examine the innards of your Amiga. *SysInfo* displays all manner of useful specification-type details, such as how much memory you possess, which Operating System version you have, the type of graphics chips and processor and so on.

SystemGuide – This is a database in *AmigaGuide* format of the Amiga system files. *SystemGuide* provides explanations of what each and every library, device, handler and filesystem does – and lots of other techie facts. *SystemGuide* is an invaluable reference work for programmers.

DEADLOCK

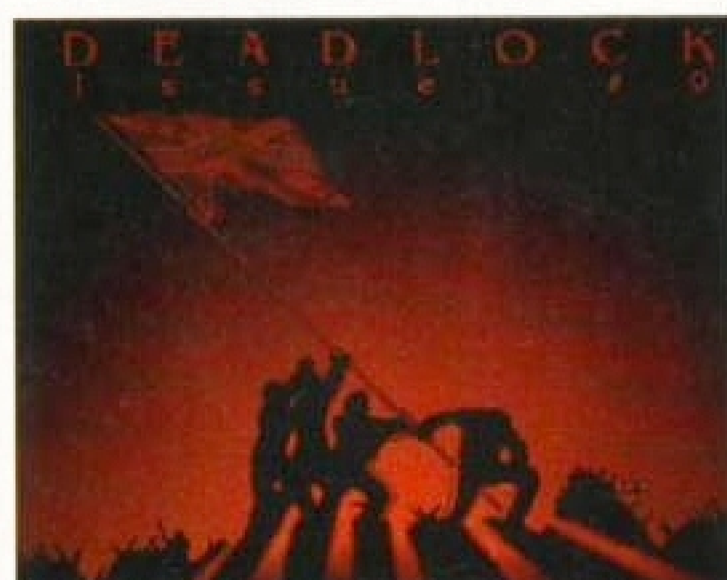
Issue 9 (Ground Zero Software)

While *Grapevine* magazine is simply loaded with information that's interesting, if not fascinating, the majority of it is a little dry and takes itself more seriously than it should. *Deadlock*, on the other hand, could be called Deadpan due to its tongue-in-cheek sense of humour and pacy narrative.

***Deadlock* is rude, crude, crass, sexist, puerile, disgusting, unclean and infantile. But, despite all that, I love it. It's the first time for simply ages that I have been close to tears with laughter.**

Oh, and as a last warning, if you are under 18, don't buy this and show it to your mum. *Amiga Format* wouldn't like parents to think that we were peddling corruption.

So hey, be careful out there and remember to keep shtoom.



DEADLOCK: Slow in parts but the rest grabs your interest and hangs on.

TOP HAT WILLY

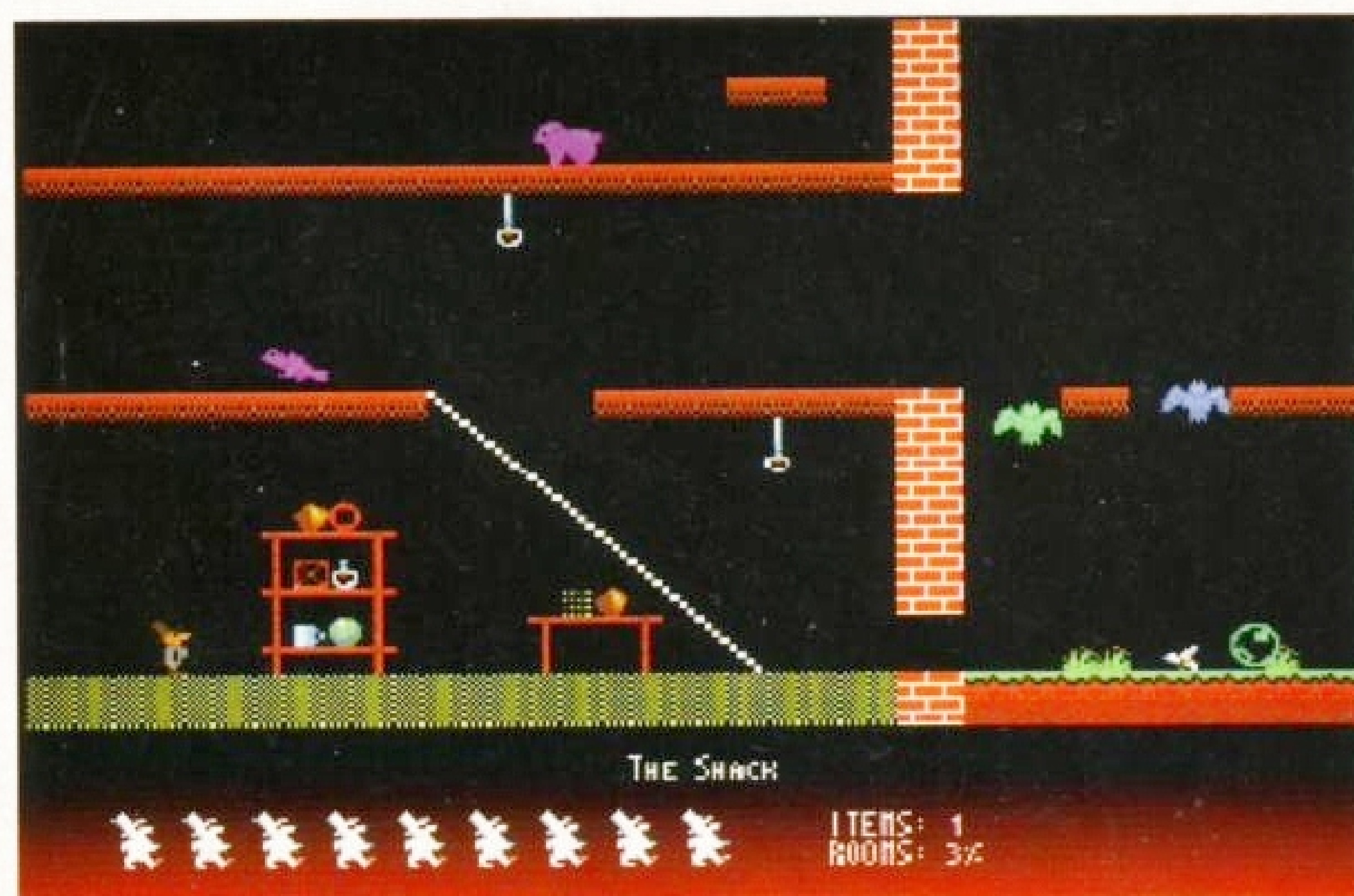
(Ground Zero Software)

The 8-bit home micros have a lot to answer for if this new game from Ground Zero Software is anything to go by – which, incidentally, *Amiga Format* subscribers will find on this month's Subscribers' Superdisk. *Top Hat Willy* draws its inspiration from the classic 8-bit platformer, *Jet Set Willy*.

Jet Set Willy may be rather long in the tooth these days but veteran computer owners are sure to love the similarities. Like Software Projects' platform classic, *Top Hat Willy* is filled with weird and wonderful objects such as scissors, razor blades and knives, all of which roam the haunted castle that Willy must explore.

Dotted around the castle are a series of shimmering bells that Willy must collect in order to complete the game. Using a combination of baddy-dodging and platform-jumping skills, Willy must avoid the baddies while collecting all the bells.

Nostalgia fans will delight in *Top Hat Willy*.



TOP HAT WILLY: The author makes no reference to similarities, but I'll eat my hat if *Top Hat Willy* doesn't bare a striking resemblance to *Jet Set Willy*!

TOP 10 PUBLIC DOMAIN TITLES

The kind supplier of this month's top 10 chart is:

ROBERTA SMITH DTP (0181 455 1626)

1. Kids Disk 6
2. Australian Clip Art 15
3. Colonial Conquest
4. Student Aid 2
5. Charlie Cat: Jap Cat Japes
6. Cinema Fonts 3
7. Wipeout
8. Grinder
9. Grapevine
10. Lunchtime 5

WHERE TO GET THE DISKS IN PD SELECT THIS MONTH

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PO Box 672, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 9YS.
Tel: 0181 657 1617.

F1 Licenceware,
31 Wellington Road, Exeter, Devon EX2 9DU.

OnLine PD,
1 The Cloisters, Halsall Lane, Formby, Liverpool L37 3PX.
Tel: 01704 834335.

Freestyle PD,
108 Woodside Way, Short Heath, Willenhall, West Midlands WV12 5NH.
Tel: 01922 404023

17 Bit Software,
1st Floor Offices, 2-8 Market Street, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 1DH.
Tel: 01924 366982

Ground Zero Software,
4 Chandos Road, Redland, Bristol BS6 6PE.
Tel: 0117 9741462

MSDOS TO AMIGADOS v2-4

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CU Amiga – marked it 89%
A.U.I. – acclaimed it 96%
Amiga Computing – rated it 88%

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Klondike III is the latest version of this very popular 256 colour card game for all AGA Amiga users. Construct your own cards or buy some of the following:

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Klondike III £3-96 [AGA] [HD] [4 Disks]

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Disk Compressor is a new and powerful hard disk compressor for the Amiga. Firstly you must run the easy-to-use installer routine. Then, after installation, you access the Disk Compressor GUI and choose which hard drive partition to compress, after picking a compression library of your choice. You then click proceed and compression of the partition's contents will happen automatically. It's as easy as that, guaranteed.

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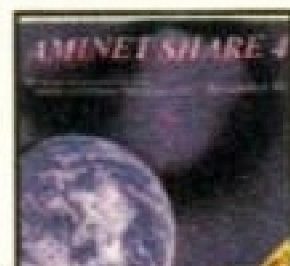
IMAGINE

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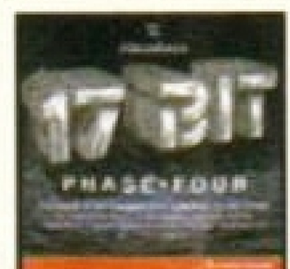
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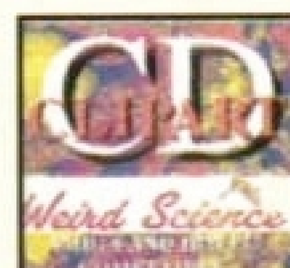


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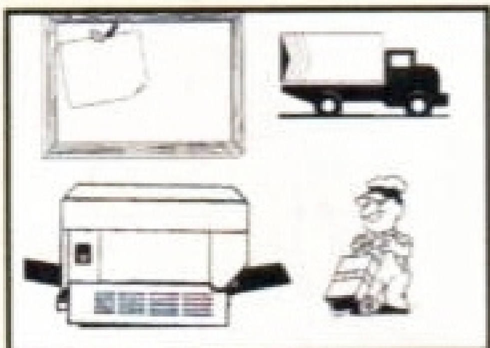


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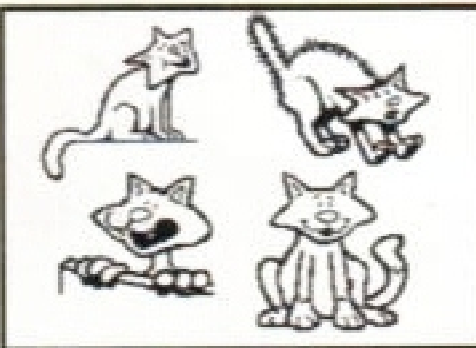

TH01 MONSTERS [1 Disk]

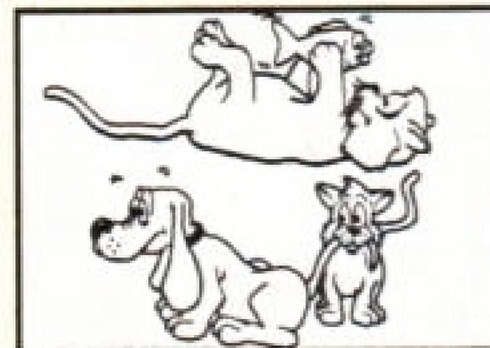

TH05 BUSINESS [2 Disks]

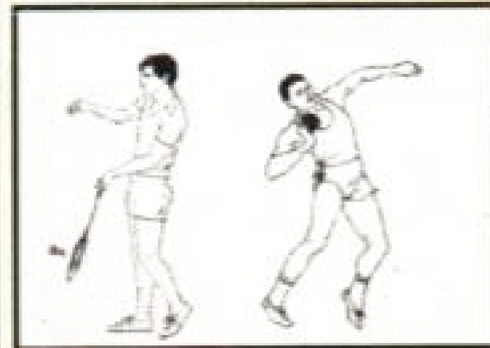

TH06 CARTOONS [1 Disk]

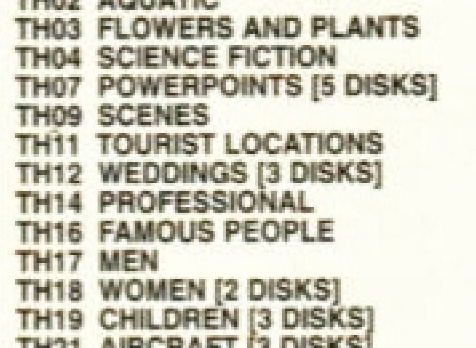

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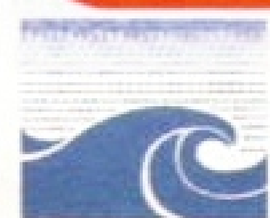
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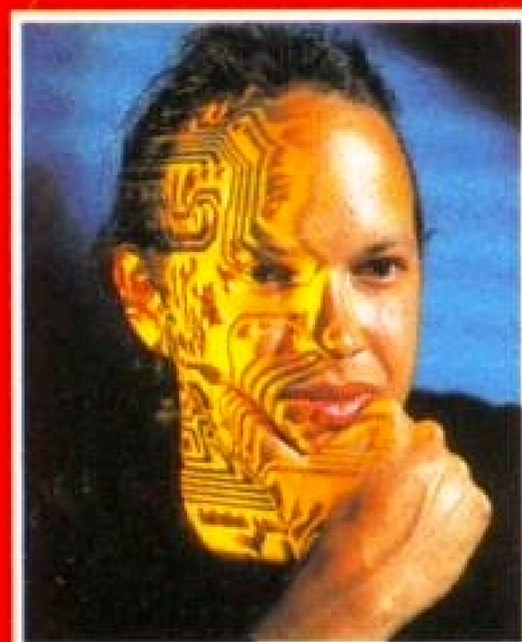
Available from Star Registered Dealers and Computer/Office Superstores Nationwide.

SERIOUSLY AMIGA

Can you tell what it is yet? Of course you can, it's one of those clever stereogram pictures, courtesy of *Personal Paint 6.1*. See page 100.

AMIGA FORMAT

GRAPHICAL LANGUAGE



There is an awful lot going on in these hallowed pages for those of you with an artistic bent (no, not you Frank). We have not one, but two really stunning art packages for you. The first is *Photogenics*, as previewed last month. We are also fortunate to have the very latest version of *Personal Paint*, which now supports a whole load of things you'll probably never see in *DPaint*, including those nasty stereogram things we have so ably demonstrated in the image above.

But, in the aftermath of the jolly successful *World Of Amiga* show, there is plenty for everyone else too. We've got programming tools, more CDs, modems, some rather nice looking desktop video equipment and the latest version of *CanDo*, the multimedia authoring tool. And there is so much new stuff being released for the Amiga, we've already filled up the next issue too!

NICK VEITCH

REVIEWS

Photogenics

Almathera's great new graphics software gets the full scrutiny of the ever image conscious Nick Veitch.



The obvious design philosophy behind *Photogenics* is a simple one – take the best of the image processing programs on other platforms (preferably ones which also begin with the word photo) and reinvent the best bits in a super Amiga-friendly piece of software. For the most part, this has been very successful indeed. If you were frustrated with *ADPro*'s lack of effects on user-defined areas or with *ImageFX*'s disappointing display, then this is the package you actually meant to buy.

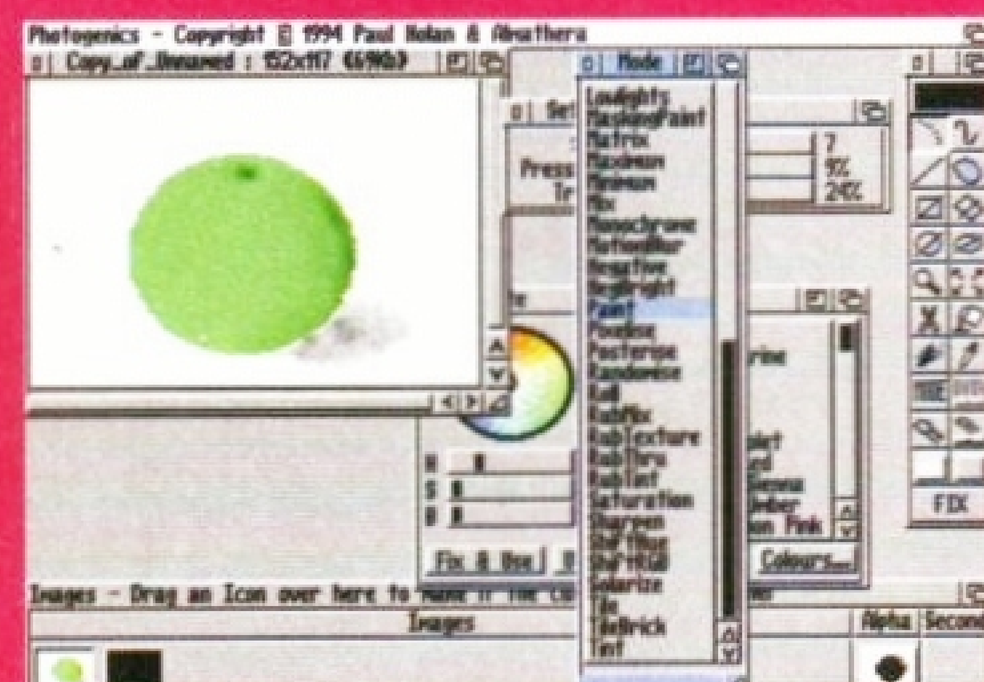
Before we get into the details, now might be the best time to talk about system requirements. AGA is not a necessity, but it is highly recommended. If you have an older machine, you will only be able to preview your work in greyscale mode, which is a bit of a limitation. Realistically, the rest of the restrictions mean you will have AGA anyway, because you also need WB3.0 and 2Mb of Chip RAM.

The most notable thing about these restrictions is how easy they are to comply with – a basic A1200 fits the bill. You don't need huge amounts of memory as you do with *ADPro*. This is mostly due to the cunning buffering systems involved.

The program is object-orientated. You can have multiple images loaded at once (which is necessary for the Alpha and Rub Through modes anyway) and each image has its own window. These windows can be dynamically resized. This is all the more

This extreme enlargement is the illustration for the packaging, produced entirely with *Photogenics*.

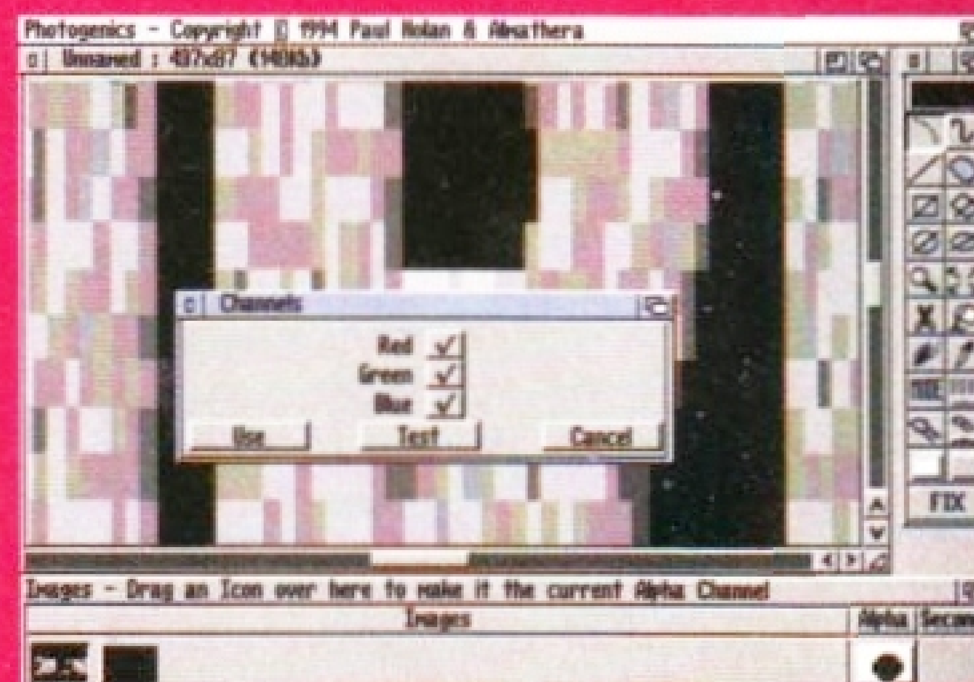
THE INTERFACE IN ACTION



Budding artists can experiment with a variety of media without ever getting their hands dirty. This is my interpretation of an apple by the way.



Font support is by way of a custom loader, so text is created in its own window, where it can be pasted on to other images. Colour fonts are supported.



Channels are supported in *Photogenics*, but this version only handles RGB files, so only three channels are available – which are, nevertheless, very useful.


Posterise, alpha channels and a bit of coloured noise can go a long way with software like this.

amazing considering how fast it happens – resizing an average window takes about four seconds on a HAM8 display. Speed characterises most of *Photogenics'* operations, from freehand drawing modes to JPEG saves. The flexible requester system means you can have many windows open at once, including the requesters for brush type, paint mode, palette, loaders and savers.

So finally we get to paint something. The first thing to do is to choose a brush type. Rather like *Opalpaint*, the brushes can emulate different types of media, from ballpoints to watercolour, and most conventional drawing implements are there. Because of the modular idea behind the brushes newer (and probably more bizarre) ones should be available soon.

After you have chosen your weapon, you should decide how to use it. All the brushes can be fine tuned to your requirements by indicating their size, pressure and transparency ratings. Then you can draw what you like, with either the freehand tool or one of the polygon tools.

Anything you paint isn't permanent until you choose Fix. This means that you can undo anything you've painted by clearing it all, or painting with the right mouse button. So you can paint in one effect, say Negative, and then decide that you'd rather the effect was Brightness – all you have to do is select the new mode from the list. It is also possible to adjust brush characteristics – basically you can change anything until you fix it. This gives an amazing degree of flexibility because you can paint the effect and then adjust it to suit your needs at the end.

Photogenics can take a while to get the hang of, particularly if you are used to one pixel on the screen representing one pixel of your image. Alpha channels are used in quite an unusual way in that they are actually images themselves. To use any image as an alpha channel, it is dragged to the Alpha box in the Images toolbar. Then all painting modes, including composition, are determined by this channel. If you can't create your own superb alpha channels, take advantage of one of the custom loaders which generate effects for you, such as ripples, streaks and patterns.

The scope for updating and adding to the program at a later date make it an almost timeless piece of software. The only notable omission is *ARexx* support, which means *ADPro* will probably remain the favourite for batch processing – at least until the next version of *Photogenics*...

FIND YOUR WAY AROUND THE TOOLBAR

Freehand Mode: Standard freehand drawing, as seen the world over.

Polygon Tools: Draw squares, elipses and other polygons, filled or not.

Magnify: Zooms in on the window. There is no separate window for the zoom, the current window contains the resized image.

Cut Brush: Creates a new image from the defined area.

Smear: Just like rubbing your finger over the image when it's still wet.

Mode: Selects the painting mode. Choose from a huge cast of thousands.

Brush: Choose your weapon, there are 13 brushes in the release version, with the promise of more to come.

Fill Paint Layer: Fills the current paint layer.

Fix: Makes current paint layer permanent. You can undo if the undo feature is enabled.

Continuous Freehand: An incredibly fast freehand drawing tool.

Filled Area: The area that you draw in freehand is automatically filled.

Zoom Out: Returns the image to its initial view size with the correct aspect ratio.

Fill: You can fill with defined tolerance and use any paint mode you like (including Clone for some weird effects).

Pipette: Selects the current colour from anywhere in the *Photogenics* image.

Mode Parameters: For use with the modes that have adjustable features.

Brush Preferences: Adjusts the transparency, pressure and size of the brush.

Undo Painting: Clears all painting since the last fix.

MODULAR CONSTRUCTION

All the loaders, savers, brushes and paint modes exist as modules, rather like *ADPro*. This is a very good idea because it means that new features can be added at a later date. If someone suddenly launches a new graphic format, or you desperately need one that isn't covered in the release version it can be added without having to update the whole program.

Even better than that, Almathera are making the format of the modules publicly available. Unlike ASDG, who charged people to develop stuff for *ADPro*, you can now do it yourself. Even if you are not a top coder, the PD libraries are sure to be awash with PD loaders and paint modes before long.

PHOTOGENICS

DISTRIBUTOR
Almathera 0181 687 0040

PRICE
£54.95

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS
WB3.0, 2Mb RAM

SPEED ●●●●●
Superbly fast on the redraws, and many of the processing effects. The Fill Mode is a bit slow.

MANUAL ●●●●●
An impressive ring-bound tome complete with examples, tutorials and reference sections.

ACCESSIBILITY ●●●●
After about half an hour, using this software is second nature. If you can use Workbench, you're an artist.

FEATURES ●●●●
The only thing really missing is *ARexx*, and a couple of effects such as spherize and twirl.

VALUE ●●●●●
Affordable and excellent – this must get the best value *Amiga Format* score in recorded history.

"Photogenics is the image manipulation tool the Amiga has been waiting a long time for."

95%

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MIGA SHOPPER

Videopilot



AF **video expert Steve McGill checks out the *Videopilot* editor, which has taken a drop in price since being picked up by Ambervane. But is it better value than before?**



After selecting the machine protocol which should drive your deck, the transport controls are tested from here with the Videopilot keys.

Every computer-based video editing suite lets the editor execute a pre-prepared edit list of video clips or FX. Much like a word processor, this list can be cut, pasted and generally swapped around to your heart's desire. This gives the editor incredible flexibility.

Most of the price of an Amiga-based edit controller depends on the machine protocols it can handle, the number of machines it can control and the extraneous features it's capable of, such as reading and writing time code and controlling external video equipment such as video or sound mixers.

The *Videopilot* from V3i costs just pennies under £1,000, and at first, the price might make you balk. But before you make your mind up, it's worth considering what you get for your money and comparing it to similar units.

The editor can control up to three source video machines, one recorder and a remote accessory. The *Videopilot* also reads all of the current consumer time codes on the market and reads and writes Longitudinal Time Code on to blank and pre-recorded tapes.

It comes housed in a snappy-looking, functional, beige box which is a mite taller and a smidgen shorter than an A1200. It sports 10 rubber function buttons, five large transport mechanism keys, a huge jog shuttle dial, and an Enter key. Support is provided for the four main consumer control protocols: Infra-Red, Panasonic 5 pin, Sony's Lanc or Control-L and JVC's 3.5mm socket.

In other words, the *Videopilot* integrates into just about any video set-up. Be it as simple as a camcorder and video recorder or as complex as three video sources, a video recorder, a video mixer and a genlock. The software is simple to use and easy to set up. It can be run from floppy or hard drive and it multitasks. Little or no conflict is experienced when other programs are running and it works with any Amiga with 1Mb of RAM. Connection is made via the serial port and the software doesn't function without this connection.

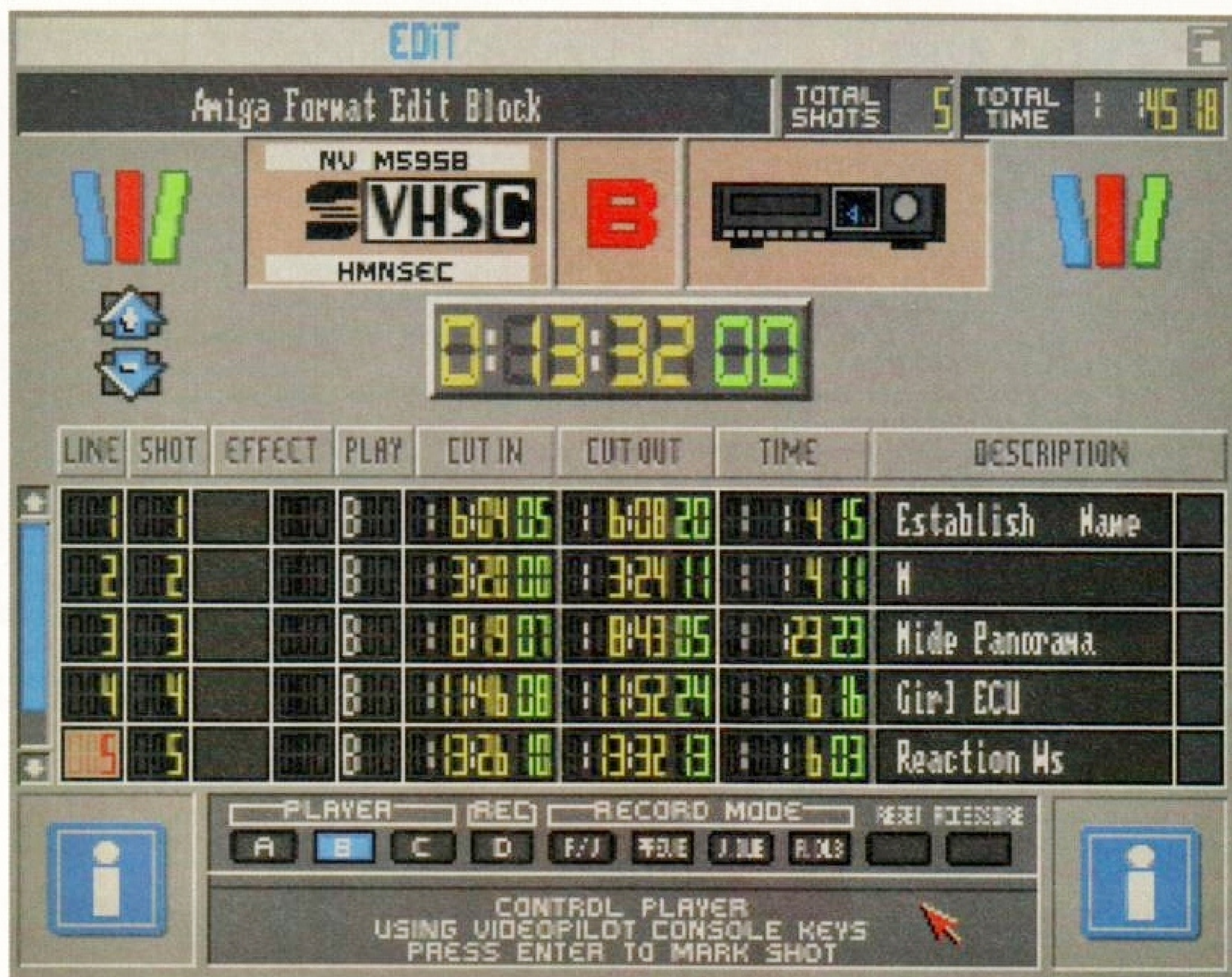
One of the main criticisms of the *Videopilot* is the software. In an attempt to simplify its use, certain control functions have been disabled. So, if you want to cue up one of your source decks to a particular spot on a tape for an edit-in point, you've got to use the transport keys on the *Videopilot* console itself.

Furthermore, you can't even use the transport mechanisms on the source deck directly. Only the *Videopilot* console controls can be used and although this may make it easier for the novice to use, for anyone who knows their way around desktop video, it's an inconvenience and feels like a restraint on the true potential of the machine.

And while we're talking about restraints, unlike other computer edit decision lists, Cue In and Out points can't be entered directly into the list via the Amiga's keyboard. Instead, you have to highlight the cue point on the list and adjust the value using either the keyboard plus and minus keys or a software adjuster.

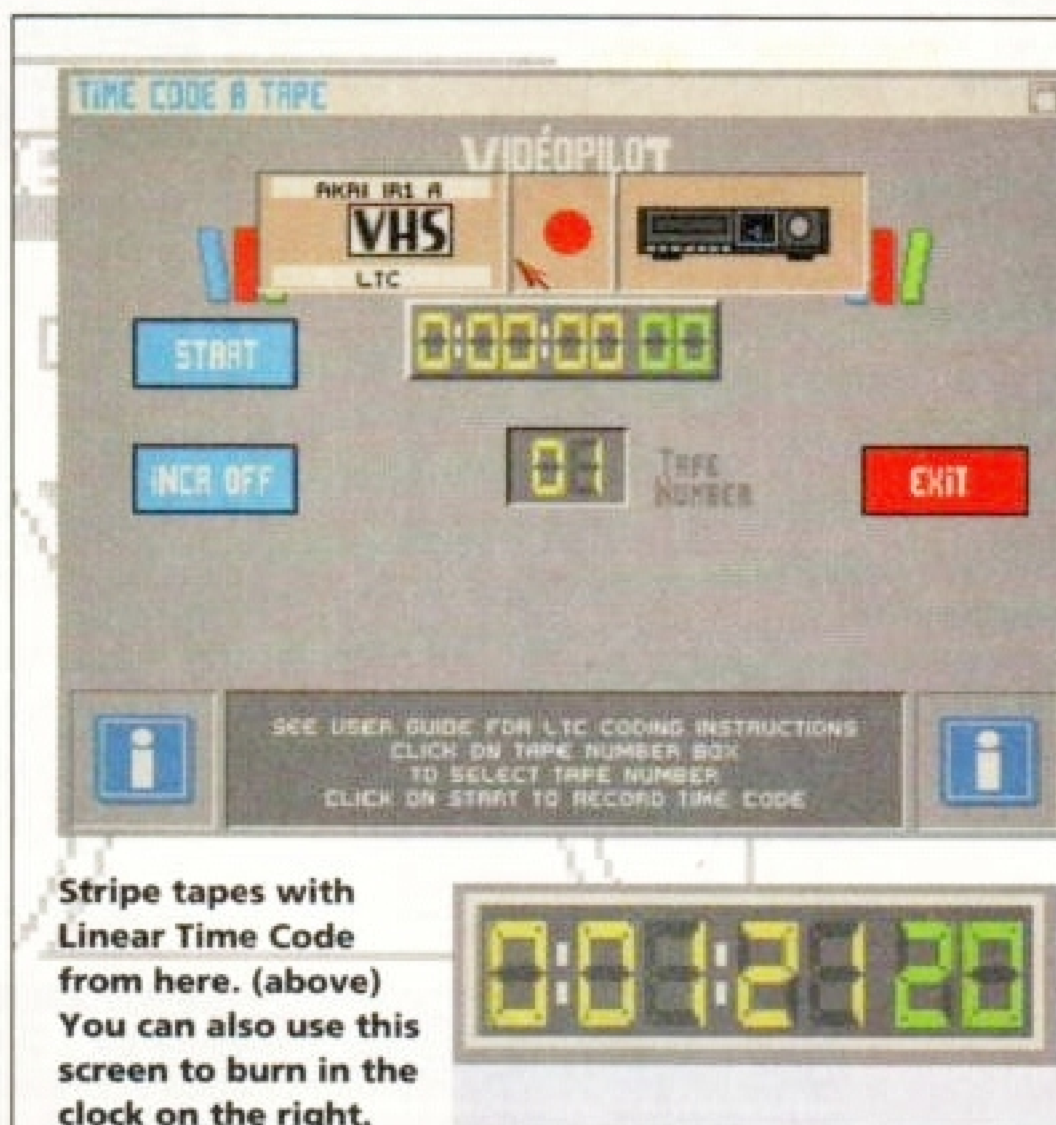
This slows everything down considerably, especially if you've already created an EDL (Edit Decision List) using the burnt in time code option (check out the Burnt In Time Code box to the right)

Continued overleaf ➡



In order to create an executable EDL, all shots have to be logged in using the Enter key on the *Videopilot* console. While limited manual adjustment is possible, it would have been much better if figures could be typed in directly from the Amiga.

BURNT IN TIME CODE



Stripe tapes with Linear Time Code from here. (above) You can also use this screen to burn in the clock on the right.

One of the incredibly powerful features of the *Videopilot* when combined with a genlock is the ability to burn in a visible time code on to video footage. At the same time LTC can be written on to the linear sound track.

Burning in and writing time codes on to second generation tapes opens the floodgates for creative experimentation and offers power to the adventurous editor previously undreamt of with consumer equipment.

It means that figures shown on-screen could be entered directly into the Edit Decision List (EDL), played around with, tweaked and experimented with until a satisfying playing order and duration has been reached. Unfortunately, figures can't be typed directly into the Edit Decision List which more than hampers the potential and convenience of the feature. Hopefully Ambervane will change this in the near future.

TIME CODE

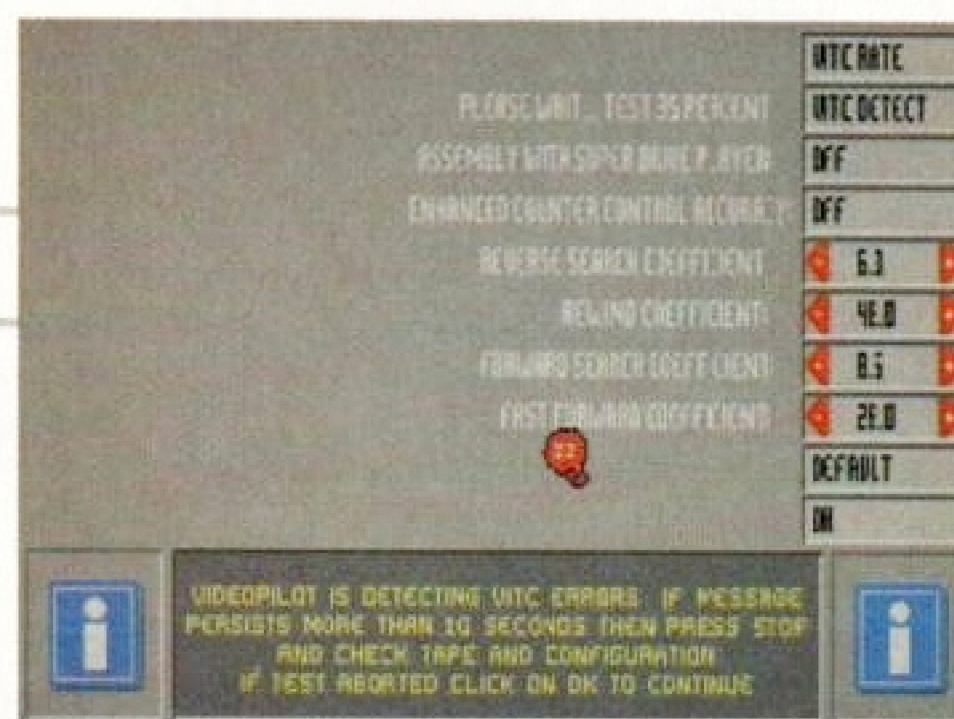
There are four types of time code that *Videopilot* makes use of:

Counter Pulse: Not strictly a time code. It is the counter pulse that keeps the video picture stable and synchronised. Unfortunately, counter pulses can never be as accurate in editing as time code because there's no way of differentiating between one pulse and the next. Counter pulse information is transmitted along the control line connected to the source machine and the *Videopilot*. It's perfectly adequate for carrying out simple editing jobs that don't require a high degree of accuracy.

RCTC: Rewritable Consumer Time Code is Sony's time code protocol that can be written on to Hi8 and 8mm tapes after the footage has been shot without losing a generation. The time code information is transmitted along the Lanc control wire and read by the *Videopilot*. Of the three real time codes, Rewritable Consumer Time Code is the only one that can be read while the source machine is in pause and search modes.

VITC: With Vertical Interval Time Code the time code is embedded in the vertical blanking interval of the video picture. Consequently, the picture information is read by the *Videopilot*. Although VITC is potentially as accurate as LTC or RCTC, with consumer equipment it is rarely reliable enough. The *Videopilot* lets you check the dependability of VITC encoded tapes.

LTC: Longitudinal Time Code, unlike VITC or RCTC, LTC is an audio signal. It's recorded on to the mono linear audio track of a source deck. Besides reading LTC, *Videopilot* also writes LTC. This means that any video machine with audio dub can be 'striped' with this code. Assuming that the record machine is hardwire controlled, frame accuracy is easily achieved.

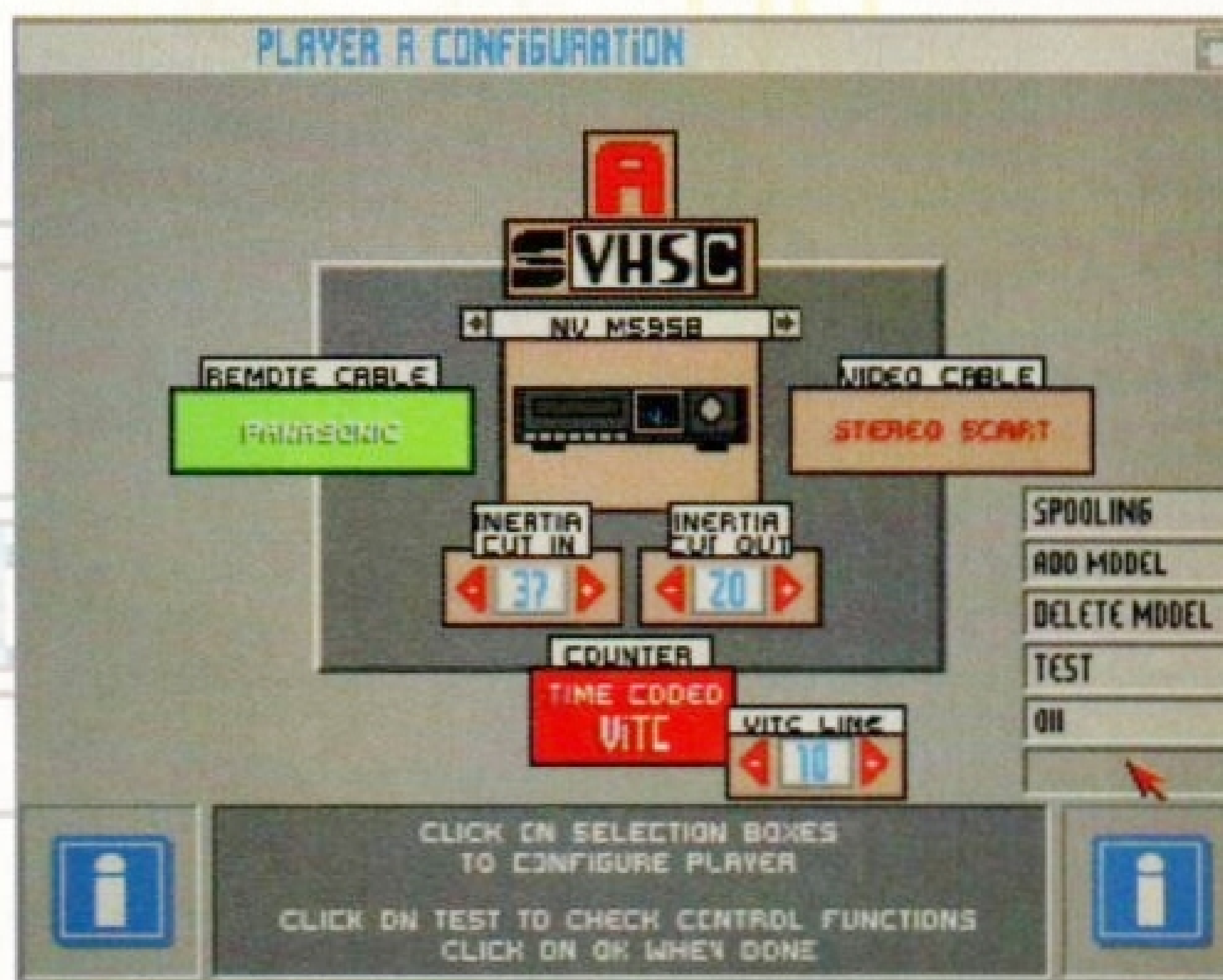


Test the reliability, integrity, and line placement of Vertical Interval Time Code from here.

PRE-ROLL AND POST-ROLL

When the pause command is issued to a video recorder in recording mode, it typically backspaces in the region of around 25-40 frames. Then, and only then, does the tape come to a complete rest. This is known as the post-roll time of the deck. When the recorder is unpaused from this state, the tape is then allowed to roll forward and reach the proper servo lock speed before the recording circuitry of the deck switches in. This is known as the pre-roll time of the deck and it typically lasts around 20-25 frames.

To edit without taking the pre-roll and post-roll times into account would mean the potential exists for losing between five and 15 frames every edit – an unacceptable figure for anything more ambitious than editing together a collection of *Top Of The Pops* videos. To counter this, and ensure results as accurate as the recording equipment used, adjustments can be made through the software. It's called inertia, but it's really an adjustment for pre and post-roll figures.



The protocol of the source decks are fine tuned from this screen. The time code too is chosen and, if you're using VITC-compatible equipment, the integrity and reliability of the picture embedded code can be tested as well.



The best method of finding the pre-roll time is to tape the counter from the config menu.



Each deck will have a slightly different figure from similar models. Adjust from here.

and want to adjust a couple of the cue points before committing yourself to creating a master copy.

And it's this that makes reviewing the *Videopilot* such a conundrum. It's a fantastic piece of kit that grows and grows in its power with every additional piece of compatible equipment added to it.

If the software was tweaked and made easier to use with the keyboard, if it had an *ARexx* port added to it, possibly some sort of sample-playing utility so that sound FX could be triggered and synchronised with the video picture as it was being copied, it would be just about perfect.

As it stands, this is a top piece of kit that's been hobbled by the software driving it. If it cost a couple of hundred quid less, it would have earned a *Format* Gold. But there are too many niggly omissions for that accolade at this price.

However, Ambervane are committed to upgrading and improving *Videopilot*. It's worth checking with them if they're upgrading the software. Because, if they do, *Videopilot* will be an unmissable piece of equipment that'll see you editing well into the new millennium.

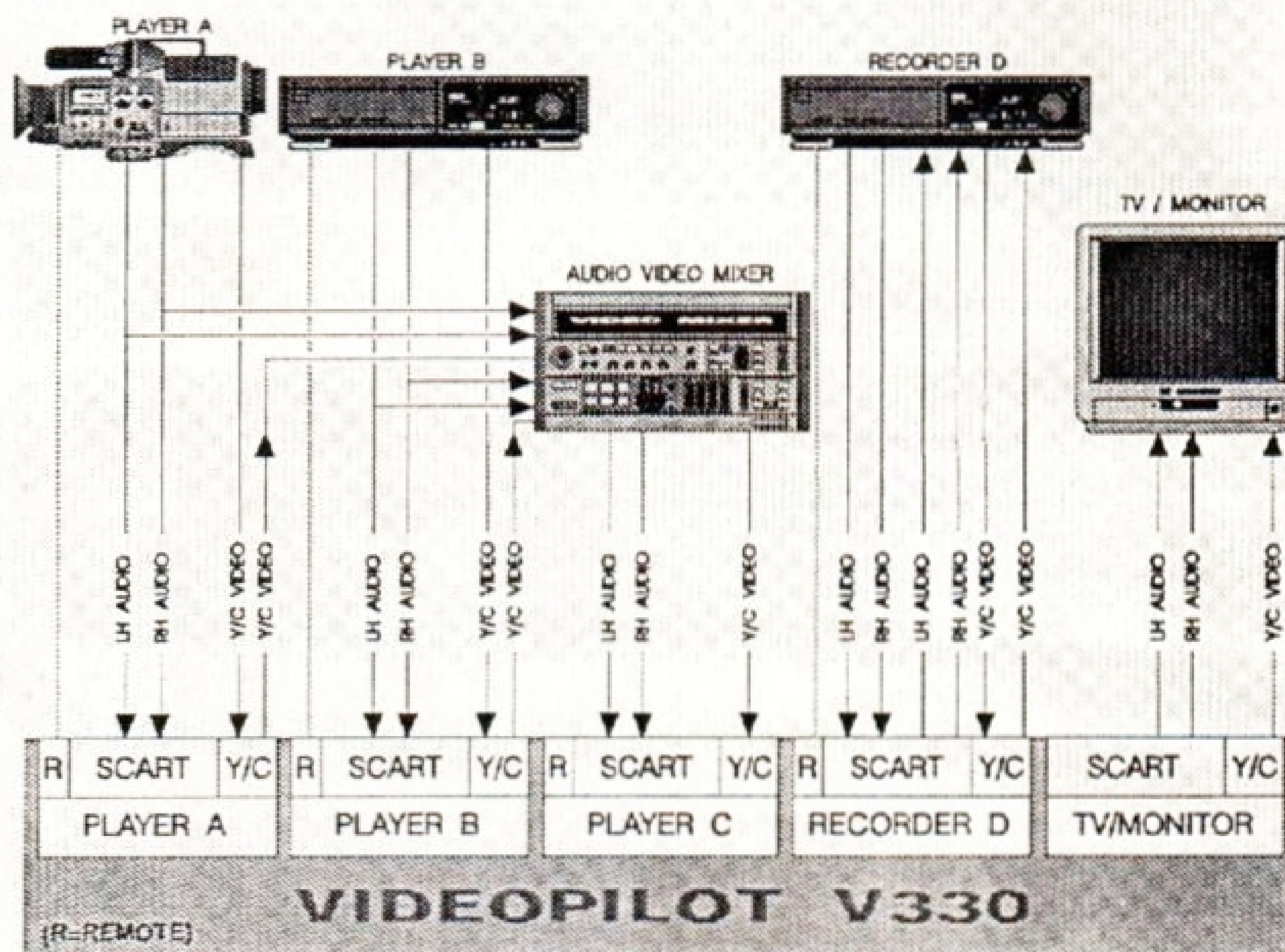
TRANS-CONNECTABILITY

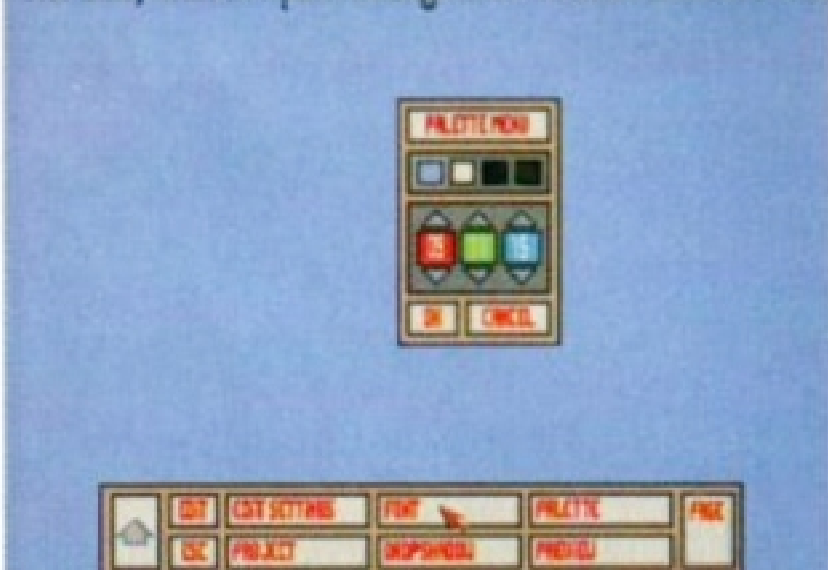
If you study the figure on the right, you'll notice that the type of video signal going into the *Videopilot* is homogenous.

If there is a mix of composite and Y/C, you end up having to use the lower grade composite signal. The *Videopilot* does not transcode between either type of signal.

Ambervane's spokesman said that to do this would add too much to the retail price.

We disagree. At this price, transcoding should be standard.





Videopilot includes a titler which, although simple and limited, is a welcome addition.



SCART sockets are used to carry the audio and composite video signals. Theoretically this makes connection easier to implement.

VIDEOPILOT

DISTRIBUTOR
Ambervane 01792 476076

PRICE
£850 + VAT = £998.75

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS
Workbench 2.0 or higher Amigas (1.3's limited)

SPEED ●●●●
Doesn't rely on heavy duty processing power, so is as fast on an A500 as on an A1200.

MANUAL ●●●●
Well written, easy to follow, with helpful diagrams.

ACCESSIBILITY ●●●●
Can be up and running in less than 20 minutes. Excellent.

FEATURES ●●●●
Bristling with them. Lots of potential for professional work to those who can afford the gear.

VALUE ●●●
Not great value, but not bad either. Should let you transcode between Y/C and composite video at this price.

"An excellent piece of kit which should eventually find its way into the editing studios"

85%

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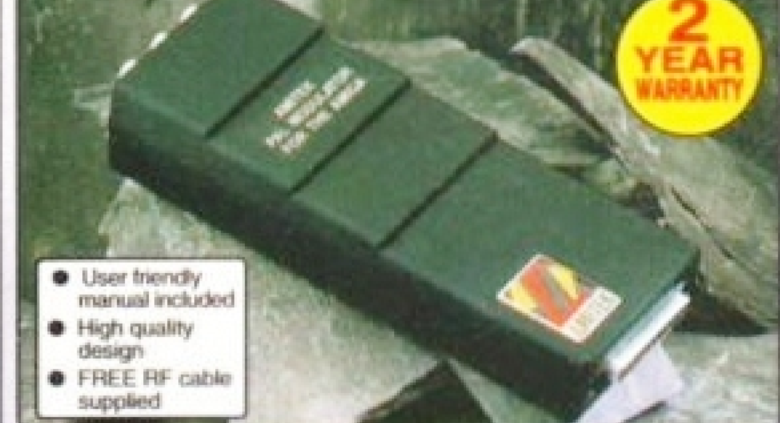
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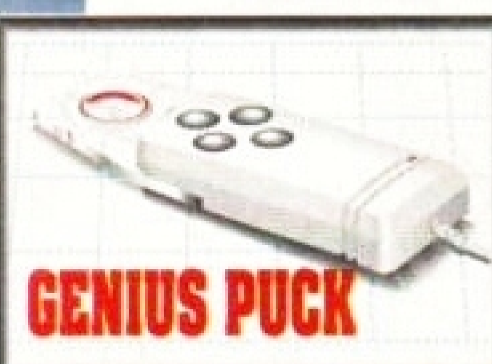


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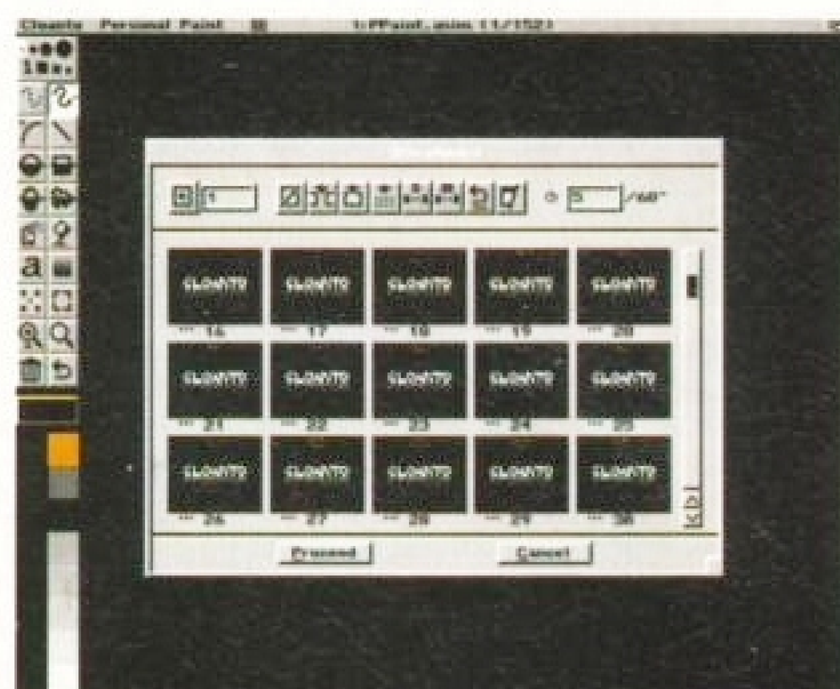
DATEL ELECTRONICS LIMITED

Personal Paint 6.1

What could Cloanto have possibly added to make *Personal Paint* an even bigger draw than before? Nick Veitch gets right to the art of the matter...

There have been a great number of paint packages produced for the Amiga. We've had *DigiPaint*, *Spectracolour*, *Fantavision*, *Deluxe Paint* in all its various shades, *Rpaint*, *Brilliance* and far too many derivatives and Public Domain hopefuls to mention. One day, someone will produce one that has it all, and Cloanto hope that *Personal Paint* will be that one.

Well, they haven't got there yet, but the catalogue of additions over recent months is certainly very impressive. *PPaint* is very much of the *Deluxe* school of paint packages, even to the point that many of the shortcut keys are the same. More of the shortcuts have now been added for the major addition to this latest version of *Personal Paint* – animation.

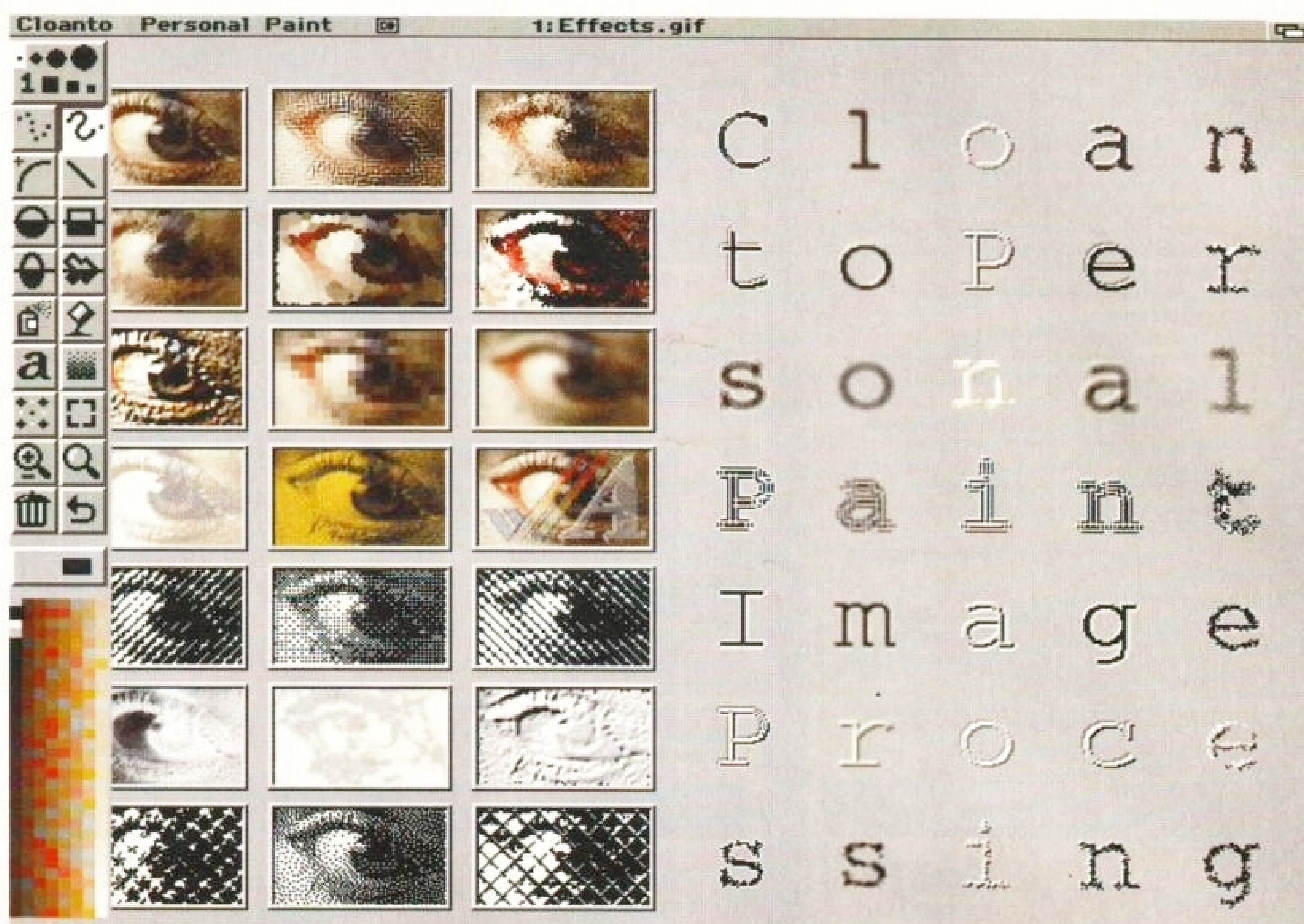


***Personal Paint*'s impressive storyboard feature displays snapshots of each frame.**

PPaint has always seemed to me to be a jobbing paint package – one that you load quickly to create brushmaps for *Imagine* or knock up a quick icon for something or other. But with the addition of decent animation features, it becomes an altogether different proposition.

Personal Paint now supports both the Anim5 (made popular by *DPaint*) and the Anim7 (made popular by *Adorage*) file formats, which means you can have the choice of animations optimised for size (Anim5) or playback speed (Anim7).

Although *Personal Paint* lacks some of the advanced animation tools of *DPaint* (the move function really – you can't call *DPaint*'s pathetic attempt at morphing an advanced feature) it does have a rather excellent storyboarding feature. This displays little snapshots of each frame of the animation and allows you to perform many useful functions, such as cutting and pasting blocks of frames, copying them and gradually changing the palettes. One of the features of the Anim7 format is that each frame can have a completely different palette. Timing can be adjusted on each individual frame too.



The image processing filters have always been a central aspect of *PPaint*'s success.

This is incredibly useful – instead of having 100 frames of black at the beginning of an animation, you can just have one frame which is displayed for 100 times as long as all the others. This not only saves quite a bit of effort, but a significant amount of disk space as well. The storyboard also features a full undo, provided you have enough memory, something that is missing from any other paint package.

SEEING IN STEREO



Is it a bird, is it an empty crisp packet or is it the biggest con since time began? What can you see?

If you have wandered past a bookshop window recently, read the *Mail On Sunday* or looked at certain types of wallpaper in a funny way, you have surely come across that amazing technique of visual trickery, the stereogram.

If you have used *Personal Paint* before, then you will know all about the image processing filters. These have been extended greatly, and now include, among other things, filters to turn your lovely pictures into evil images from hell that make you go cross-eyed and give you headaches.

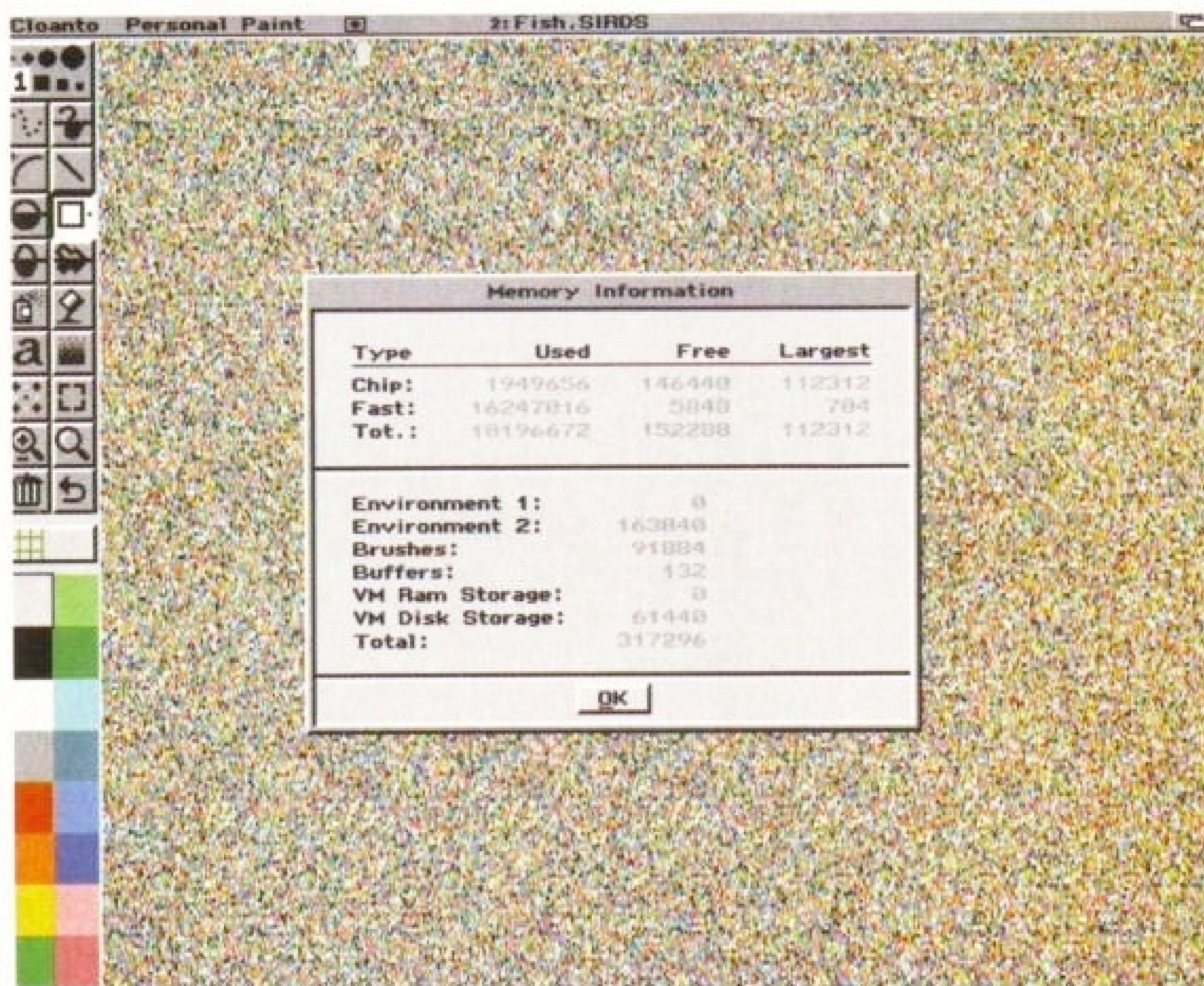
Two general types of stereogram are supported – the random dot variety, and the one which uses brush patterns, like those seen on cans of Pepsi.

If you reckon you can make out the picture hidden in the mass of grey dots on the left, you'll win one of those unspecified prizes that get decided at a later date. Send your answers to me at the usual address and I'll announce the winner in Serious Intro in two issue's time, so you'd better be quick.

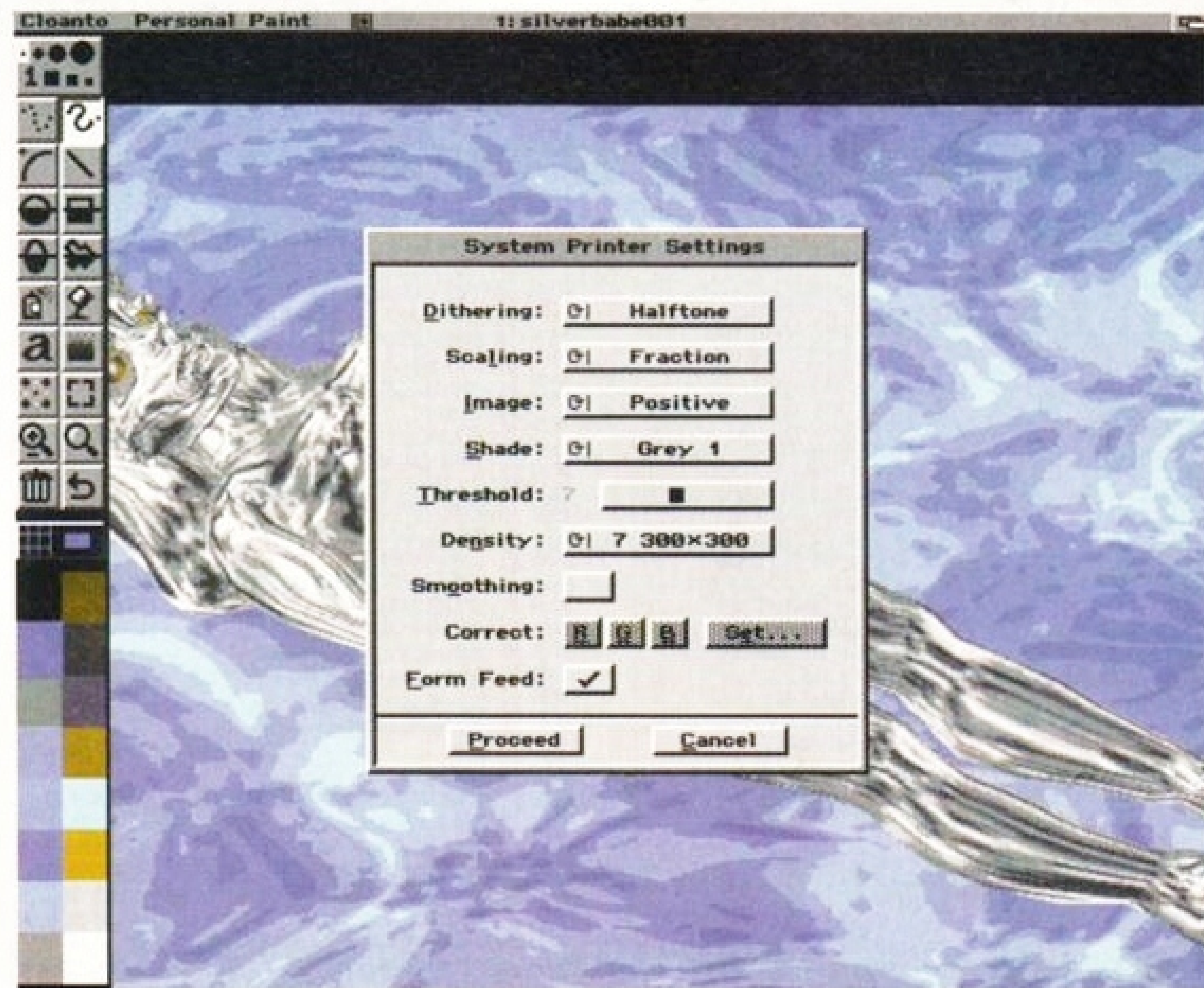
PRINT THAT!

One of the many added benefits in this version of *Personal Paint* are the great enhancements that have been made to the printing routines. The printing routine now includes direct support for 24-bit colour printing, so all you Fargo Primera owners can get decent quality output without having to resort to using DTP packages.

The print quality of the 8-bit greyscale mode has been significantly enhanced too, to make this the most flexible and best quality print engine on any of the Amiga art packages.



Virtual memory means if you have a hard disk, you'll never be troubled by Not Enough Memory For Requested Operation messages again. Well, unless you just get silly.



Improved printing routines mean that images can now be printed, even in colour, at 24-bit quality. This is the best in-software printer interface for any paint package.

An integrated player is provided, which can display Anim5 and Anim7 files, and which can also be used to play files in screenmodes not currently supported by *Personal Paint* – Ham and Ham8.

Why doesn't *Personal Paint* support these modes? Although they give you many more colours, they are slow screen modes, both to display and to draw in. For most work, people don't need them anyway. You aren't going to design HAM8 sprites for your next game, are you? HAM animations are generally too slow. A good 256-colour animation appears to be of better quality, because with less colours it runs at a decent speed.



Can you see lots of little fishes in here, all swimming about and being happy? Well I can, so there...

Another new addition since we last perused the menu bars of this software is virtual memory management. Virtual memory is used when you run out of conventional RAM, which can easily happen with large animations. This memory can be of two types: it can be a RAM buffer on a hard disk, or in the RAM disk. The point of using the RAM disk is to enable your Fast RAM to act as a buffer for your Chip RAM – very handy on older machines. which don't have as much Chip RAM as newer Amigas.

When the RAM disk is full, the program then stores information directly to a hard disk file. Actually, you could use a floppy disk as a virtual disk, but this would be a very slow solution.

Personal Paint is a very integrated and Amiga-friendly program. It supports the datatype standard for loading images (a JPEG datatype is included) and it also fully supports retargetable graphics, which enable you to open the program in any screen mode available on your Amiga.

This includes any graphics cards which support the display database (as most of the EGS ones do) – at last, a paint package which can take advantage of improvements you make to your system!

This and the frequency of updates (and great upgrade deals) means that *Personal Paint* is certainly a package that you can believe in.

SPECIAL OFFER

Thanks to a special *AF* offer, if you buy *PPaint* for the original price of £59.95 directly from Ramiga, you will also get a free copy of Cloanto's *Personal Fonts Maker*, which enables you to construct bitmap fonts.

COMPARE AND CONTRAST

With all the paint packages to choose from, it can be confusing deciding exactly you want, never mind which particular package can give it to you. Certainly, in recent versions, *Personal Paint* has overtaken *DPaint* in terms of flexibility and, some would argue, ease of use.

***Personal Paint* still lacks some of the advanced features of *DPaint* such as lightables, HAM modes, and the Move function. However, *Personal Paint* adds a whole range of image processing features, plug-in datatype support and display database support which means it runs fine with 24-bit cards. It is genuinely a very Amiga-friendly program.**

But how does it compare with the other art program reviewed this month, *Photogenics*? We decided to review them separately rather than look at them head-to-head because they are really aimed at different users. If I wanted to touch up my *Lightwave* renders, or paint an object with realistic brushes, I would use *Photogenics*. But if I wanted to make an icon for a disk, draw an interface for a program, create a simple bumpmap for rendering, or create any sort of animation I'd probably use *Personal Paint*.

There is room for both these programs, and judging by the number of *Personal Paint* updates we've seen in the last year, it will keep on getting better.

PERSONAL PAINT 6.1

DISTRIBUTOR
Ramiga 01690 770306

PRICE
£54.95

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS
Any Amiga with 1Mb RAM

SPEED ●●●●
The animation parts are particularly fast and the image processing isn't slow either.

MANUAL ●●●●●
An excellent ring-bound manual, including much information and useful tutorials.

ACCESSIBILITY ●●●●●
This is easier to set-up, easier to understand and easier to use than most other paint packages.

FEATURES ●●●
Some excellent features, but also some omissions: HAM8, brush modes, onion-skinning...

VALUE ●●●●●
All this power at this price is almost suspicious, but it's true!

"It can only be a matter of time and upgrades before this is the best paint package ever."

88%

CanDo 3.0

INOVAtronics claim that with their new *CanDo 3.0* authoring system, you can create just about anything. Jason Holborn puts that claim to the test...

Despite the availability of many user-friendly languages such as *AF67*'s fantastic Coverdisk program *AMOS Professional*, programming is still something of an elitist pursuit. The fact is, programming is damned difficult.

Most of us can manage to write a little *BASIC* program that prints Hello World on the screen a thousand times, but try to write something big and complicated like a database or a game and you'll soon discover that, no matter what your chosen language is, programming isn't as easy as it first appears.

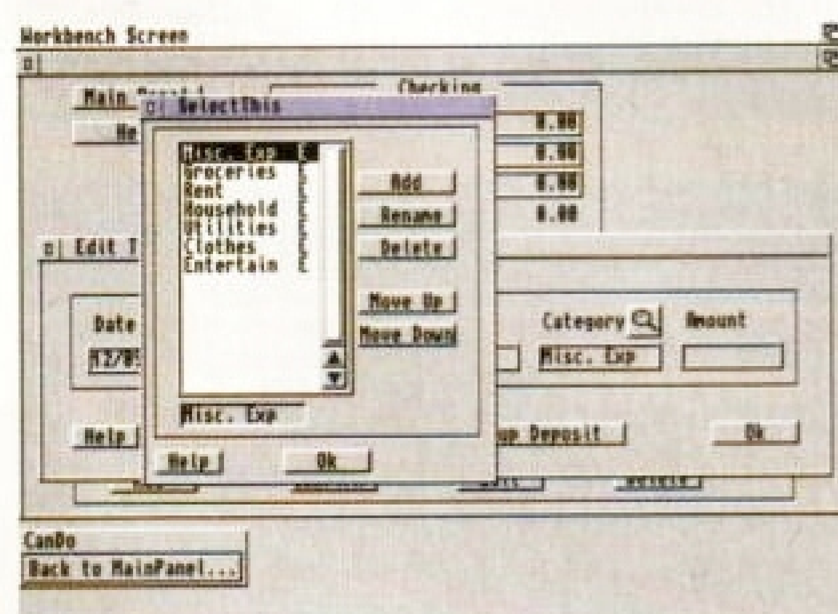
If all of the hype surrounding the release of INOVAtronics' *CanDo 3.0* is anything to go by, you don't have to be a great programmer to produce some impressive programs. What's more, INOVAtronics claim that *CanDo* programs (or decks as they are called) can take full advantage of the Amiga's powerful audio and visual capabilities including the AGA screen modes.

There's no restriction on the type or complexity of programs that you can create either – *CanDo* has already been used to create Workbench utilities, interactive presentations, games, educational software and even tools for scientific research.

Authoring systems such as *CanDo 3.0* remove the drudgery of programming by substituting the programmer's text editor with a friendly mouse-driven front end that automatically generates all the code necessary to handle the framework and user interface that your application needs. Once this basic framework is in place (its skeleton, if you wish), all that remains is to add the meat – that is, the code required to make your application actually do something useful.



CanDo is just the ticket for creating anything from interactive information systems to Workbench utilities.



Even if you don't want to dabble with multimedia, *CanDo* can be used to create Workbench utilities.

Like all good authoring systems, *CanDo* is based around a system of cards (hence the reason why *CanDo* programs are called decks), each of which holds a screen or window full of gadgets and all the code required to make those gadgets function. Getting used to working with such an alien system takes some time but you'll be surprised just how quickly you catch on to the idea.

Take an address book utility, for example. In *CanDo* terms, all you'd have to do is to break the utility down into a series of cards, one for each major function – a main card which acts as a main menu, a card for adding new addresses, another for searching for addresses and so on. If you like, each of the cards represents a major sub-routine.

To help you define your programs, *CanDo* provides a comprehensive hierarchical system of menus and requesters covering just about every aspect of program design – there's a set of requesters for defining buttons, another for pull-down menus and so on.

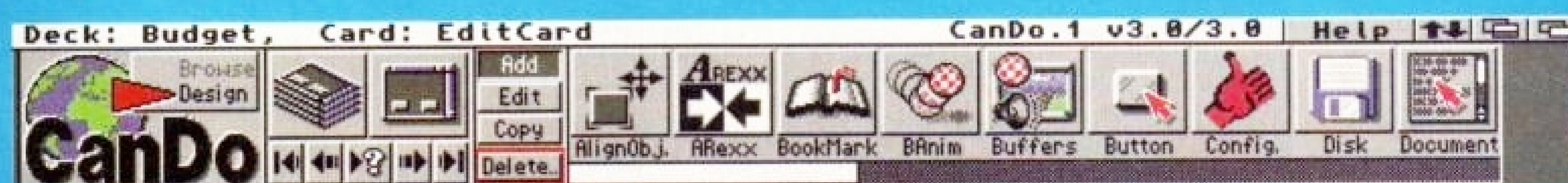
This front end has remained relatively unchanged since the release of *CanDo* version 1.0 but, bowing to considerable pressure, INOVAtronics have now

Continued overleaf ➡

THE CANDO MAIN PANEL

At the heart of *CanDo 3.0* is the program's main panel which, as any existing *CanDo* users will have already worked out for themselves, has undergone a considerable facelift over previous versions to give it that extra sparkle of professionalism that was sadly lacking before.

This main panel forms the heart of *CanDo* – from here you can test your deck, add and delete new cards and so on. You can also create all manner of *CanDo* objects (buttons, scroll gadgets, pull-down menus and so on) using the scrolling objects toolbar on the right-hand side of the panel display.



If you're a potential *CanDo* user then you'd better get used to this screen because you'll be seeing a lot of it!

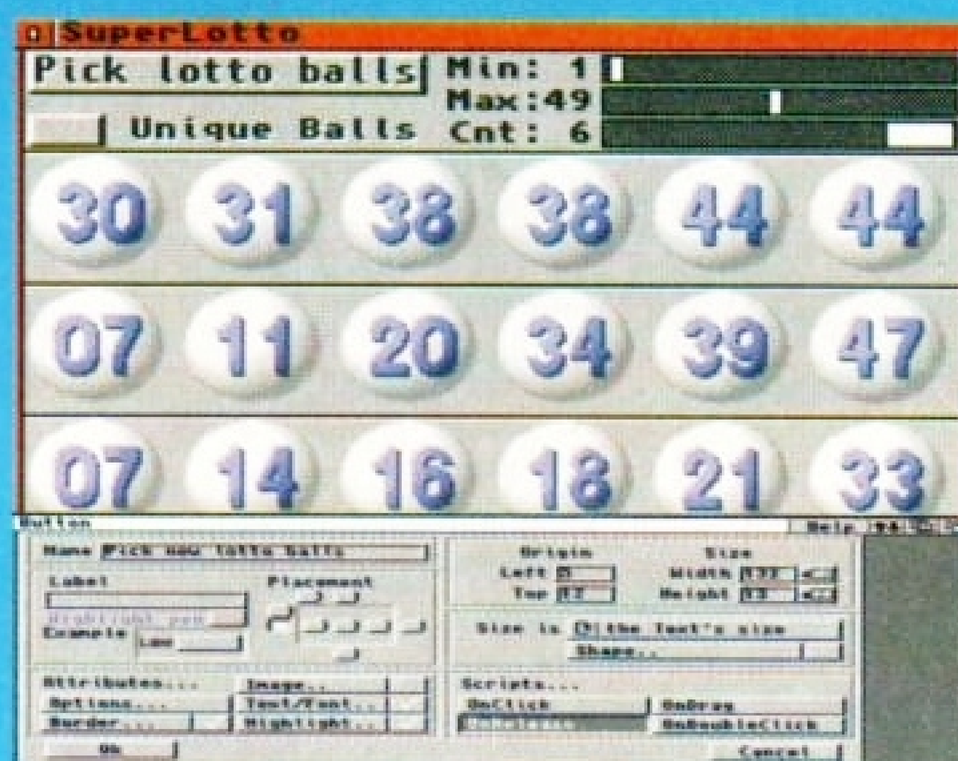
CANDO PROGRAMMING

If you're one of the many Amiga users who shudder at the thought of having to learn to program, an authoring system such as *CanDo 3.0* may appear to be an ideal alternative – after all, those icons and requesters certainly look a lot easier to handle than a programming language.

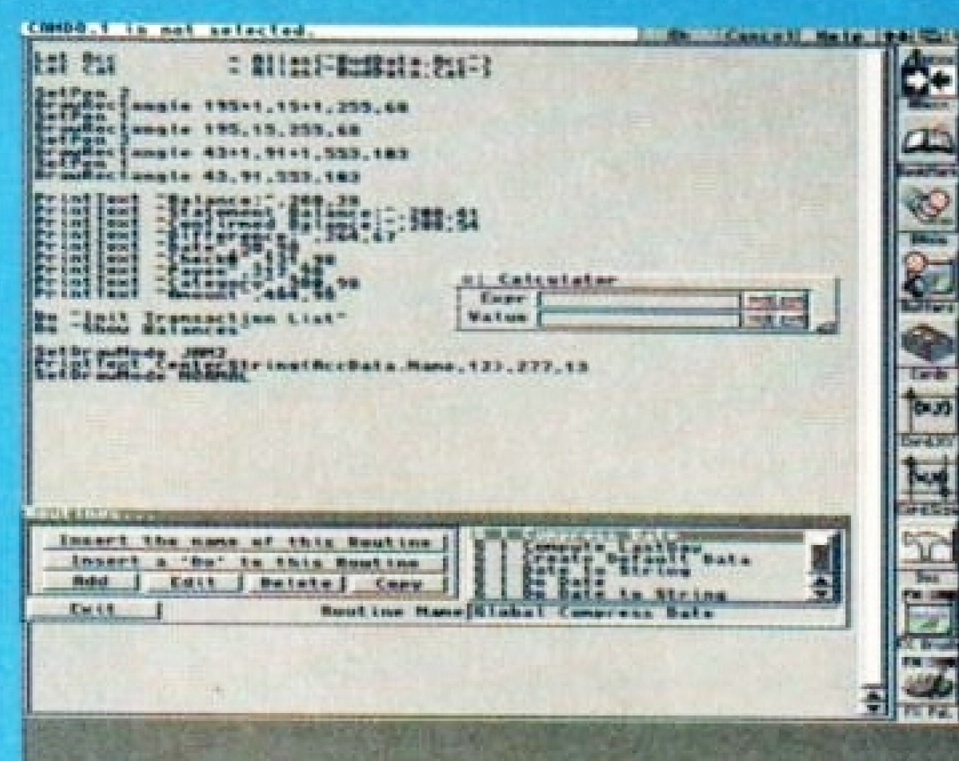
Unfortunately, even *CanDo 3.0* isn't completely free of coding. Although *CanDo*'s comprehensive set of requesters take the drudgery out of designing your application's front end, you still need to tell *CanDo* how each and every gadget, pull-down menu option and scroll box that you define should behave. Without this all-important code, nothing happens whenever you attempt to interact with your *CanDo* Deck.

Every *CanDo* object that you define can have a script assigned to it. Indeed, some objects can have two or more scripts attached to them which are performed according to how you interact with that object – a button, for example, can have a separate script attached to it that is performed when you click on it once, double-click on it and so on. Cards can also have scripts that are performed when you activate or leave that card.

CanDo's scripting language is a fully-fledged programming language capable of handling just about any task you care to throw at it. Like a real language, *CanDo*'s script language contains all the usual decision making and program control constructs that you'd expect from a structured programming language. It also fully supports all manner of variable types (including arrays) and has a built-in subset of database management commands making applications that need to maintain complex lists of data easy to create.



Each and every object that you create must have at least one control script assigned to it.



***CanDo* scripts look no different from the code you'd generate with a dedicated programming language.**

⬅ overhauled many aspects of the interface. The most striking changes have taken place on *CanDo*'s main panel which now looks far more professional.

Clicking on any one of the many object icons available from *CanDo*'s main panel brings up the editor for that particular type of object. If, for example, you click on the button icon, *CanDo* asks you to define the position and size of the button. Once you've done this, the button editor requester appears on screen. From here you can fine tune the appearance and operation of the button to suit your particular application.

As well as attaching scripts to the button, *CanDo* also provides a fair amount of cosmetic control over the buttons – you can, for example, assign a brush image to the button, change the button's border image and even control what happens when you click on the button.

Creating an application in *CanDo* takes time but it's a lot quicker than writing an application from scratch using a traditional programming language. Don't expect to dive into *CanDo* and immediately start churning out top-notch applications and breath-taking games straight away – although you should be able to get to grips with *CanDo*'s interface design tools fairly quickly, it's unlikely that you'll find *CanDo*'s script language as accessible. Like all programming, languages learning *CanDo*'s scripting functions takes a considerable amount of time and practice.

CanDo 3.0 certainly isn't aimed at users who want to create great programs but are afraid of coding – whether you like it or not, you're still going to have to be a pretty mean coder to produce a complex application like a database.

For simple training systems and even small utilities, however, *CanDo 3.0* (and its brilliant manual) still manages to take most of the pain out of program development. Indeed, the only major spanner in *CanDo*'s works is its price – £170 is just too expensive. AF

ROOTING OUT THE BUGS

Developing an application in *CanDo 3.0* may be very easy but that doesn't stop bugs creeping in to *CanDo* scripts. Debugging any programming language can be both frustrating and time-consuming and so INOVAtronics have developed a separate utility called *CanDebug* ($199, about £130), a dedicated *CanDo* debugger utility designed to take the pain out of finding and removing bugs in *CanDo* scripts.

***CanDeBug* lets you examine *CanDo* scripts while they are running so that you can see the effect of each instruction on a *CanDo* deck. Like all good source level debuggers, you can step through scripts a line at a time or even use a system of breakpoints to define stopping places in scripts. *CanDo* automatically traps syntax errors but *CanDeBug* comes in really handy for logic errors – bugs that are introduced due to errors in the design of the code.**

WHAT'S NEW IN VERSION 3.0?

MAIN PANEL: **_CanDo_'s main panel has been overhauled to make it cleaner and much easier to use.**

OBJECT CURSOR: **Edit the size and position of objects at any time by dragging out control points. Object alignment is much easier too thanks to *CanDo*'s all-new Snap To Grid and Alignment requester.**

IMPROVED SCREEN AND WINDOW HANDLING: **As well as full AGA support, *CanDo 3.0* provides improved control of screen and window attributes including better public screen support.**

OBJECT BROWSER: **Shows list of current objects in card.**

PALETTE/BRUSH FX EDITOR: **50 brush and 27 new palette and genlock effects, all of which can be edited. Supports *AmigaDOS 3.0*'s palette protection feature.**

IMPROVED OBJECTS: **Virtually all of *CanDo*'s gadget types have been improved. The field object, for example, is now fully font and colour sensitive.**

CANDO 3.0

DISTRIBUTOR
Silica Systems 0181 309 1111

PRICE
£169

SPEED ●●●●
Although they slow down on an A500, *CanDo* decks run at an acceptable speed on an A1200.

MANUAL ●●●●●
A massive ring-bound affair that is almost too detailed.

ACCESSIBILITY ●●●
Despite that friendly front end, *CanDo*'s script language still takes time to learn.

FEATURES ●●●●
CanDo is a very powerful authoring system which uses the Amiga particularly well.

VALUE ●●
INOVAtronics should take a long, hard look at their pricing policy – *CanDo 3.0* is just too expensive.

"A powerful authoring system that is let down only by its rather high asking price."

75%



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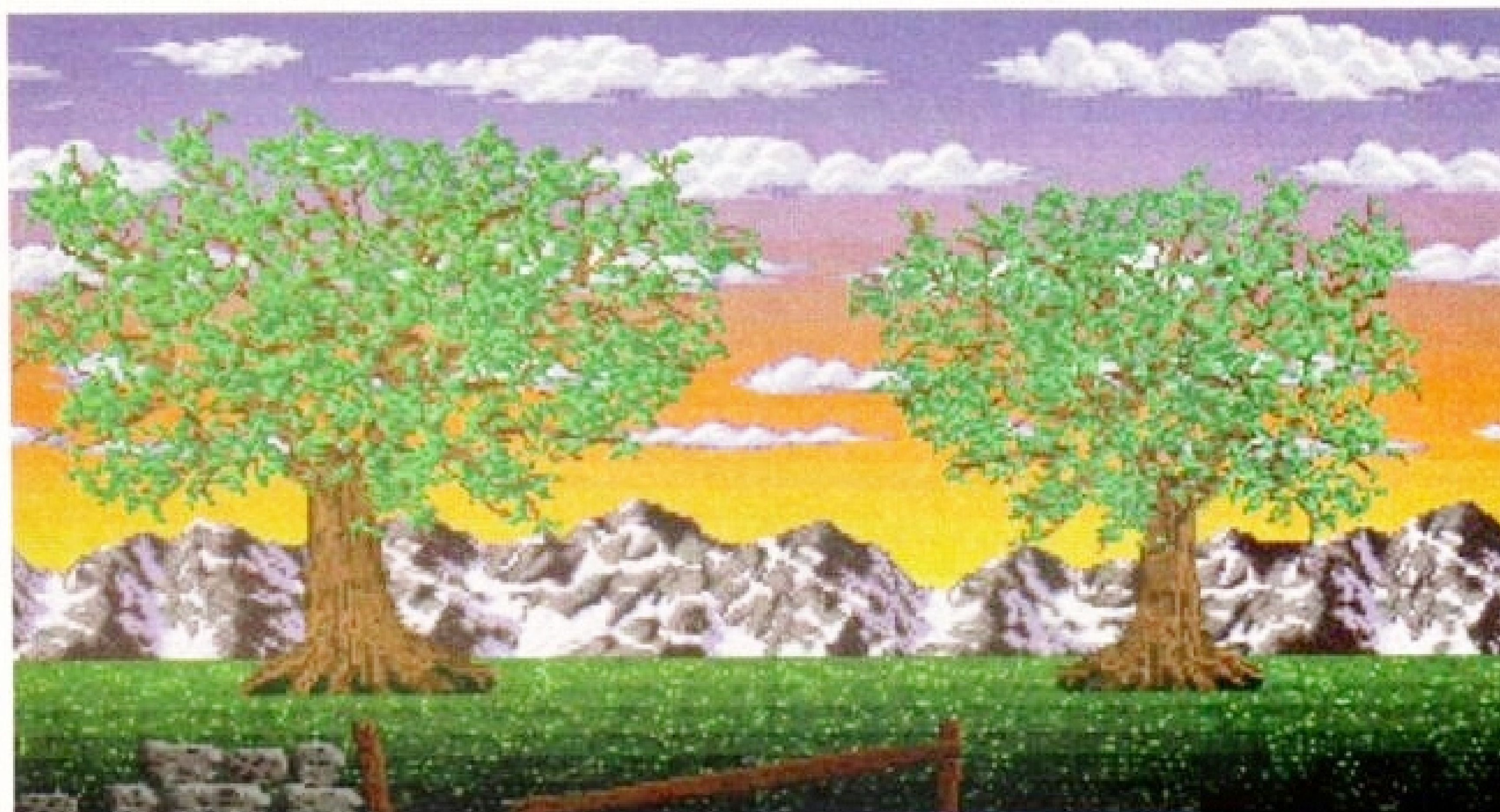
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Programming games in *C* or *Assembly* doesn't have to be painful. Jason Holborn shows you how to avoid distress with help from HiSoft's new games development system.

GameSmith



***GameSmith* provides an impressive level of control over the Amiga's video and sound hardware. This program, for example, illustrates *GameSmith*'s impressive parallax scrolling capabilities.**

While *BASIC* programming languages like *AMOS Professional* and *Blitz Basic 2* have made games programming less of an elitist profession, even the most ardent *AMOS* fan will admit that they don't provide the same raw speed as pure *Assembly* language code. However, programming a game from scratch in *Assembly* language is about as easy as tight-rope walking in snow boots.

But with HiSoft's new *GameSmith* development system, games programming could be within the reach of us mere mortals. Designed for *Assembly* language and *C* programmers, HiSoft claim that *GameSmith* provides everything you need to write any type of game you could imagine. Shoot-em-ups, platformers, adventures – even *Shadow Of The Beast*-style parallax arcade games could be within your reach. And you don't need either an assembler or a *C* compiler to use *GameSmith* – HiSoft even include special GS versions of *Dice C* and its own *Devpac 3* assembler (minus the *MonAm* debugger, however).

The heart of *GameSmith* is a library file attached to the object file generated by your assembler or compiler using a linker such as Blink. *C* programmers will find *GameSmith* most accessible because all the various demonstration listings and syntax definitions in the book are listed in *C*. The registers required for passing parameters in *Assembly* language are also listed.

To help you use *GameSmith*, HiSoft include some demonstration listings which are backed up by a tutorial in the manual which shows you how to use *GameSmith* to create a simple tank battle game. But very little coverage is given to the actual mechanics of games programming – if you don't already know how to write a game, the manual isn't going to help.

The range of functions offered by *GameSmith* covers just about every hardware level call that a games programmer could ever need. *GameSmith* provides commands that let you define multiple viewports and bitmaps (with full AGA support), load IFF graphics into a bitmap, access the Amiga audio system, hardware and software (blit) scroll a bitmap and animate blitter objects and hardware sprites with ease.

In many ways, *GameSmith* is like a low-level version of *AMOS Professional* – it's not quite as user friendly (assembler listings tend to crash more than *AMOS* programs), but you get that same feeling of being shielded from the complexities of the Amiga's unfriendly Operating System.

GameSmith is a very powerful (and OS legal) package. Although it removes much of the drudgery of writing handler code for sprites, screen scrolling and so on, it isn't as accessible as HiSoft claim. Unless you have a solid working knowledge of *C* or *Assembly* and a rudimentary knowledge of the Amiga's system structures, you're likely to get bogged down. But if you're not afraid of getting your hands dirty *GameSmith* is worth investigating.

FUN WITH CITAS



***GameSmith*'s powerful CITAS animation utility lets you create complex animated objects which can quickly and easily be incorporated into your own *C* or *Assembly* code.**

One of the most complicated aspects of programming a game is that of coding the routines responsible for handling the animation of in-game objects such as animated background tiles, blitter objects and so on. To make life easier, *GameSmith* has a powerful tool called CITAS which provides a quick and easy method of constructing animation objects which can be displayed by *GameSmith*'s various object handling routines.

Once you've created the image data for your anim objects using a paint program, each frame must be loaded into CITAS separately. Once they are all loaded, you can control the playback sequence and even define a collision table which tells *GameSmith* how to interpret collisions between the objects in your game. You can, for example, define a smaller rectangular region within a frame as a collision area so that only that area registers a collision. Say, for example, you were writing a *Street Fighter* clone – you could use this powerful facility to define areas of a fighter's body as hot spots (such as feet and fists).

GAMESMITH

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PRICE
£99.95

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS
C compiler or an assembler.

SPEED ●●●●
Like most programs, *GameSmith* code requires optimising to get it running as fast as possible.

MANUAL ●●●●●
A comprehensive and well-written manual detailing each and every function perfectly.

ACCESSIBILITY ●●
GameSmith is definitely for the more technically capable user.

FEATURES ●●●●
A powerful and complete development system. Some form of map editor would have been nice.

VALUE ●●●●
Bearing in mind that you also get a free *C* compiler and assembler, *GameSmith* is very good value.

"If you know your opcodes from your interrupts, GameSmith is worth investigating."

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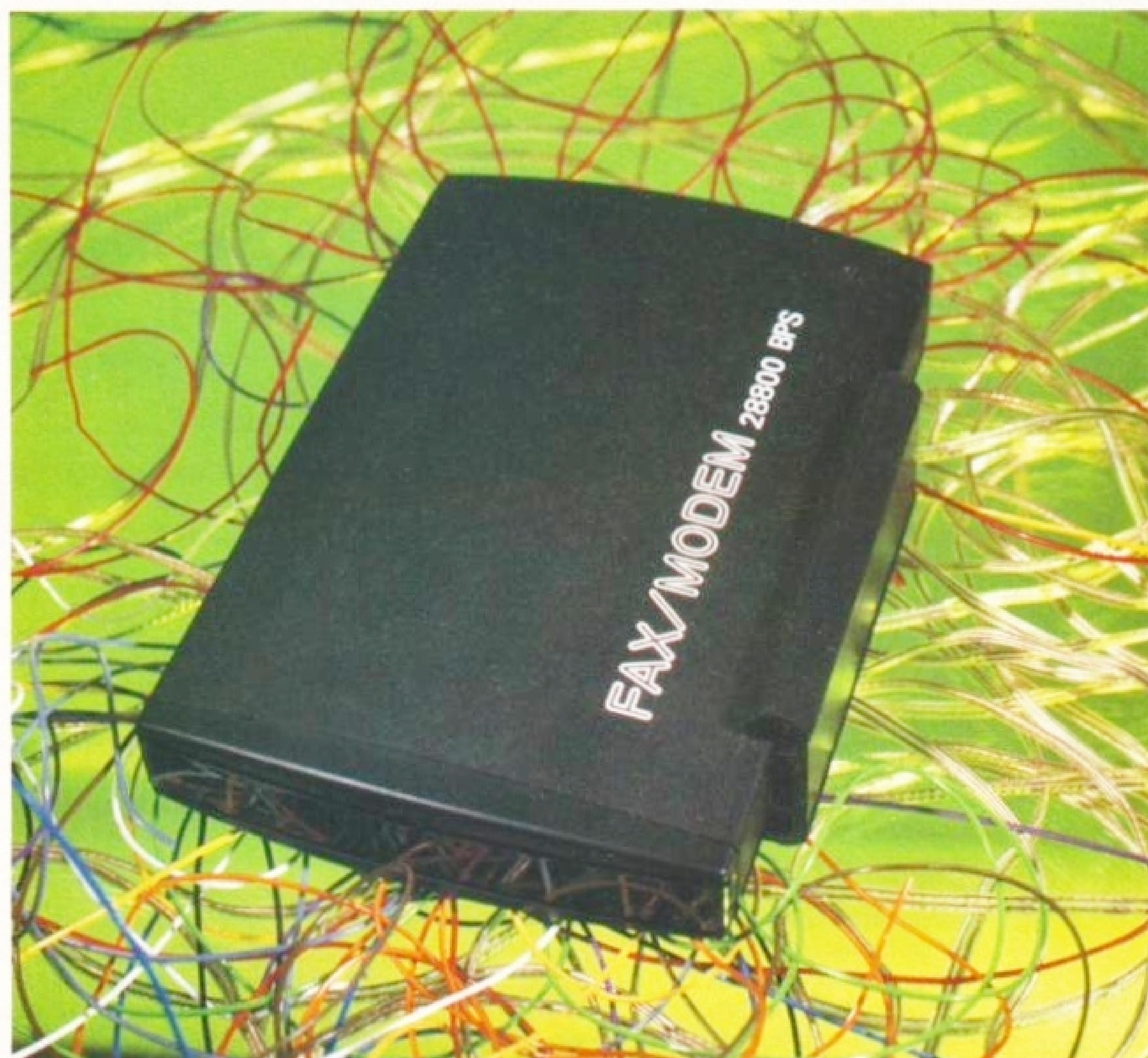
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X-Link 288

£249.99 ■ Wizard Developments (01322 272908)

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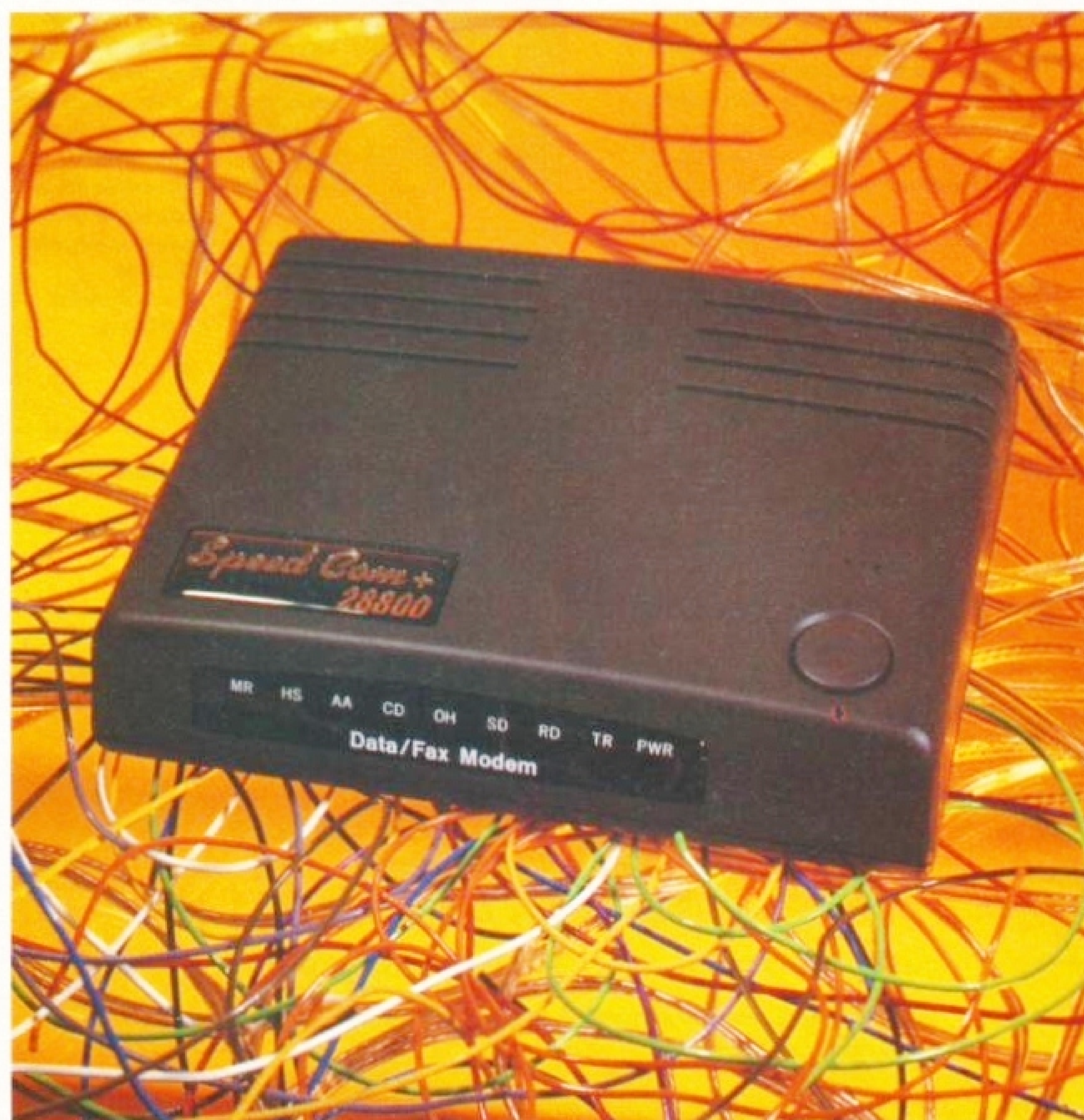
The prize for the most stylish modem has to go to the X-Link 288 from Wizard Developments, a 28,800 baud modem that performs as well as it looks. If you're a bit short of desk space, the X-Link comes complete with an attachment which allows it to stand on its side or it can still be positioned on its belly. Even the X-Link's status display is stylish with little red icons that light up when the modem is in operation.

In terms of specifications, the X-Link 288 is a giant killer. Although – like the Speed Com+ – it isn't V.34 compatible, it fully supports the V.Fast Class standard for full 28,800bps data transmission. Its fax capabilities are equally impressive and, although it doesn't come with fax software, Wizard sell *TrapFax* for £35 (a fiver cheaper than the recommended retail price) if you buy the modem from them. Like its major rivals, the X-Link fully supports Group 3, Class 1 and 2 fax modes. Feature for feature, there's little to separate the X-Link from the Speed Com+ which is its closest (and cheaper) rival. Comparing it to the USR 28,800 is a little unfair because the US Robotics model is fully V.34 compatible. But the X-Link 288 is BABT approved so that extra £35 may be worth spending.

80%

Depeche

You've read our feature on communications – now get on-line with one of these high speed modems. Jason Holborn rides the wave.



Sportster USR 28,800

£279.99 ■ First Computer Centre (01532 319444)

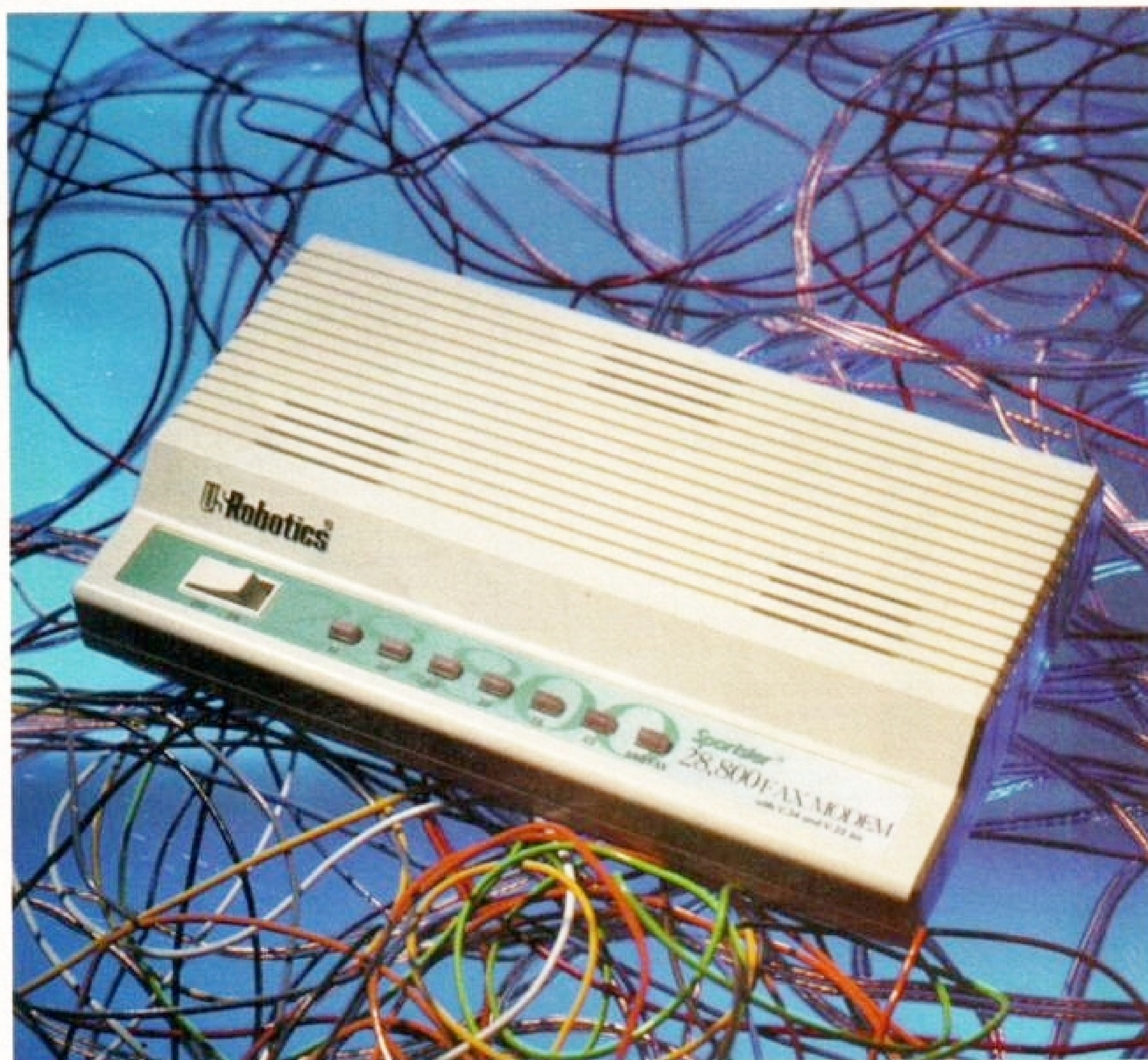
BABT approved

US Robotics' modems have always been a firm favourite in the *Amiga Format* office and this new model from the American modem manufacturer certainly isn't going to tarnish that reputation. Modelled in the same rather tacky casing as its V.32bis forerunner, the USR 28,800 certainly isn't going to win any prizes for either beauty or design. Indeed, it's possibly the ugliest modem I've ever encountered!

As the old saying goes, however, looks can be deceptive – look beyond its grotesque styling and you'll find a perfectly respectable modem. The USR 28,800 is the only 28,800 baud modem on test to fully support the new V.34 standard. This means that it automatically slows the transmission speed if the line quality should suddenly deteriorate, reducing the chances of the modem suddenly dropping the carrier.

As you'd expect from a modem of the price, the USR 28,800 provides full fax support when used in conjunction with either the *TrapFax* or *GPFax* programs. Although it may be a bit on the expensive side, the USR 28,800 currently represents the state-of-the-art in modem technology and it's still the only 28,800 modem to fully support the V.34 standard. Like a can of Heinz baked beans, you get what you pay for.

88%



Speed Com+ 28800

£214.99 ■ Siren Software ■ (0161 796 5279)

The award for the cheapest 28,800 baud modem has to go to the Speed Com+ from Siren Software. Officially endorsed by HiSoft for use with its *Termite* Comms package (see boxout), the Speed Com+ is also the smallest modem on offer. Looking more like a radio alarm clock than a high-performance modem, the Speed Com+ has a small but functional status display on its fascia and little else.

Unlike the two other modems featured here, the Speed Com+ is not BABT approved so – in theory at least – it should not be used on a BT telephone system. The Speed Com+ is very well endowed. Boasting full V.Fast Class and V32.terbo support, it can communicate at a rate of 28,800bps. Surprisingly, however, it is not fully V.34 compatible (despite the fact that the V.34 standard has now been finalised) so bear this in mind when making your buying decision. On the fax side, the Speed Com+ performs admirably. Boasting Class 1 and 2 plus Group 3 fax support, it can send and receive faxes using any common fax programs. In all, the Speed Com+ offers tremendous value for money. The lack of BABT approval could prove a problem if the man from BT turns up on your doorstep...

85%

modems

PROTOCOLS EXPLAINED

The three modems featured here support data transfer rates of up to 28,800 baud. As is the case with all new technology, however, the introduction of this new breed of modem has brought with it a whole new bag of protocol jargon that you'll need to be aware of.

V.34: If you want a modem that supports the very latest protocols then make sure that it is fully V.34 compatible. Some older 28,800 baud modems do not support this new protocol but – like the Supra 288 – can be upgraded. Not only can a V.34 modem transfer data at very high speeds, but the V.34 standard also allows the modem to slow down if the quality of the phone line deteriorates.

V.Fast Class (V.FC): The V.FC standard does not have the automatic quality checking that V.34 offers but still allows data to be transferred at a rate of 28,800 bits per second.

V.32 terbo: The V.32 terbo standard is based around the same technology as V.32bis but it has been improved to allow data transfer at a rate of 21,600 bits per second.

V.32BIS MODEMS

Since the release of high-speed V.34 modems such as the US Robotics model featured here, the price of V.32bis modems has dropped faster than a lead weight. Although V.32bis modems are no longer the fastest modems available (they offer a maximum transfer rate – with data compression switched off – half that of a 28,800 baud V.34 modem), most Comms users should find their performance more than adequate.

Without doubt the cheapest V.32bis modem we've encountered is the X-Link 144, which is now available through *Amiga Format*'s Readers' Offers pages (turn to page 120 for full details). Retailing for £139.99, the X-Link 144 supports data transmission up to 14,400 baud but this can be increased still further when the data compression and error correction facilities are switched on. Like all good modems, the X-Link 144 also comes complete with full fax capabilities (although you need to buy separate fax software to take advantage of this facility). Group 3 (class 1 and 2) fax transmission up to 14,400 baud is supported.

ON-LINE WITH TERMITE



Boasting a full Workbench 2.0 front end, *Termite* is a feature-packed Comms package. Here it is seen logging onto the *Amiga Format* bulletin board system, Spong2!

There's a lot more involved in getting on-line than plugging a modem into the serial port of your Amiga. In order for the Amiga to interpret signals from a modem, some form of communications software is required. Surprisingly, there are few commercial packages available due mainly to the widespread availability of PD Comms packages such as *Term* and *NComm*.

PD Comms packages are all very well but the lack of documentation and technical support can be a problem. If you'd rather pay a bit extra for a commercial Comms package, try HiSoft's new *Termite*. Written for all 1Mb Amigas with Kickstart 2.04 (or greater), *Termite* provides everything you need to get your Amiga on line. Supporting speeds up to 115,200 baud, *Termite* can handle standard Amiga XEM terminal emulations and its own built-in ANSI and VT-102 emulation modes. Like the PD program *Term*, *Termite* uses external XPR file transfer libraries. As standard, *Termite* supports Xmodem, Zmodem, Ymodem and Kermit protocols. But, there's nothing really to separate *Termite* from the PD package, *Term 4.1*.

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CD-ROM Round-up

Jason Holborn dips into the treasure chest of new CD-ROM titles and spins the latest discs on offer for your Amiga.

"The Amiga DTV CD is an absolutely invaluable source of video-related Public Domain and backdrop images."

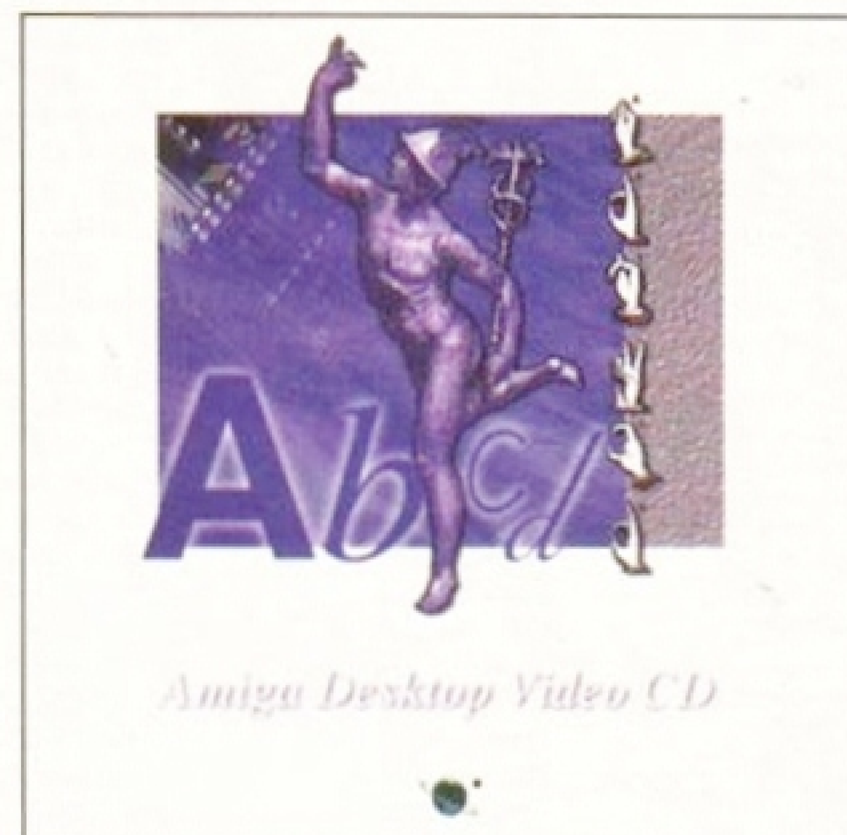
82%

AMIGA DTV CD

■ £19.95 ■ Almathera Systems ■ 0181 687 0040

This new compilation is aimed directly at Amiga desktop video fans but should also find favour with Amiga users who are interested in multimedia. Top of the contents list is an impressive collection of DTV-orientated utilities sourced from a variety of Public Domain libraries. The utilities on offer include *ImageStudio*, *MainActor*, *VTimer* and a wide range of lesser known PD video ones.

The range of DTV support files is equally impressive with the usual selection of 3D objects (in both *Lightwave* and *Imagine* format), scanned backdrops (in AGA and ECS formats), bitmapped (colour and mono) fonts, outline fonts and clip art taking centre stage. Highly recommended.



"A veritable treasure trove of original Amiga PD software. This disc is a must for all serious Amiga Public Domain fans."

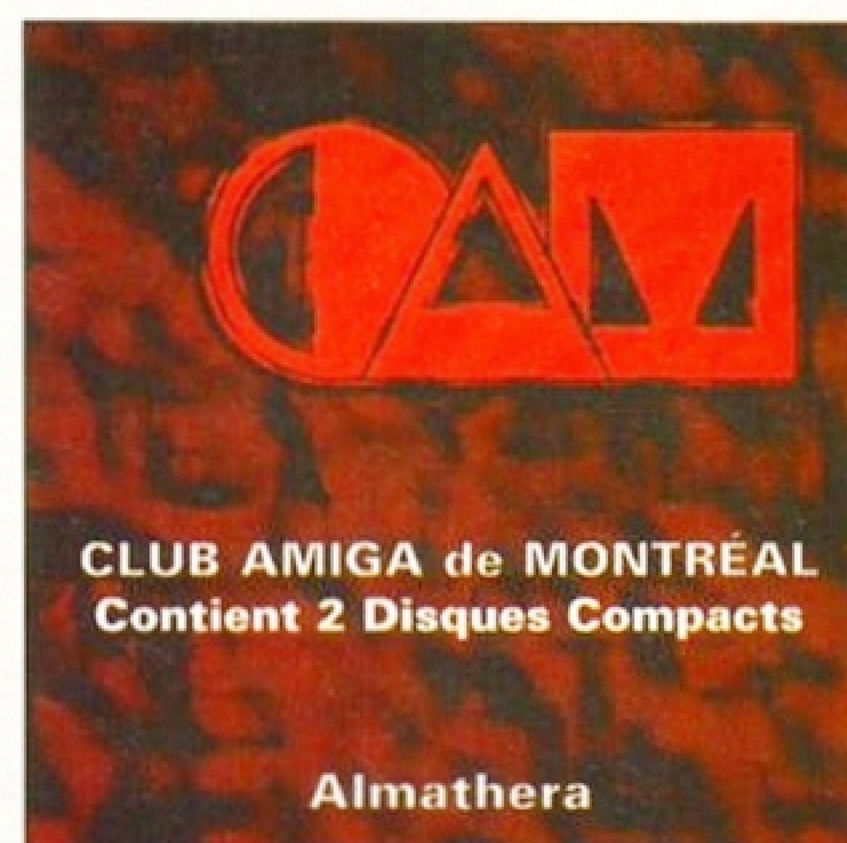
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CAM COLLECTION

■ £24.95 ■ Almathera Systems ■ 0181 687 0040

CAM is a French-Canadian Amiga Public Domain collection put together by the Club Amiga Montreal (CAM). Although many of the files on the disc can be found in other Public Domain collections (notably the Fred Fish library), most of the material is original. CAM have tried their best to concentrate on disks with a specific theme (music, DTP, games and so on).

Running from a friendly AmigaGuide-based menu system, over 950 disks have been archived on to the two *CAM* discs. Some of the programs show their French-origins just a little too much with many of the instructions in French but CAM have tried their best to provide English translations too.



"A very professionally produced and well designed collection of extremely high-quality backdrop images."

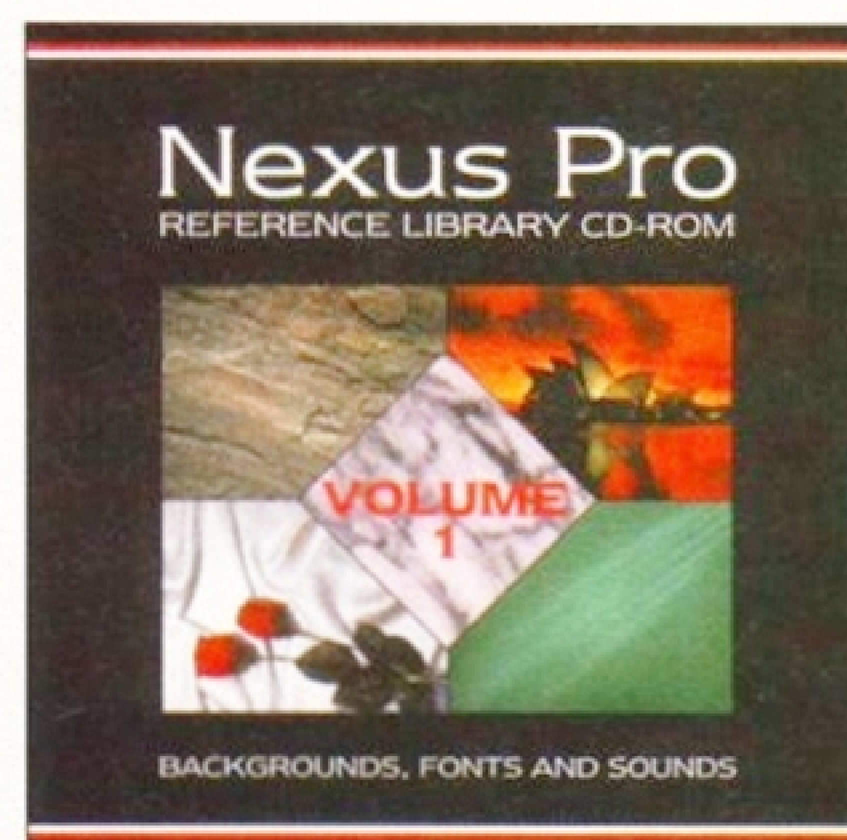
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NEXUS PRO

■ £TBA ■ Videoworld Multimedia ■ 0141 641 1142

CD-ROM discs packed with scanned images are hardly a new concept but few are as polished as this offering from Videoworld Multimedia. Aimed at multimedia producers, the disc contains hundreds of high-quality scanned images in a variety of different formats and resolutions including full 24-bit JPEGs, 256-colour IFFs and GIFs.

Taken from the *Nexus Pro* range of background images (which were previously sold on floppy disk), all the images have been designed as backdrops for both multimedia and video work and, as such, are hardly works of art in their own right. That said, the scan quality is second to none making this one of the best collections of images ever compiled for the Amiga. Also on the disc are 470 CompuGraphic outline fonts and 100 assorted sound samples.



"With this collection of programs you can have your own PD library without breaking the bank!"

78%

PD GALORE

■ £19.95 ■ Express PD ■ 0116 2559711

It seems that virtually every Amiga PD company is dipping its corporate toes in the murky waters of CD-ROM these days. 17Bit, PD Soft and Virus Free PD are just three PD libraries that have taken the plunge in CD-ROM technology. Hot on their heels is Express PD with their *PD Galore* compilation, a CD-ROM containing the entire range of PD disks from this premier PD supplier. Most of the programs on the disc can be accessed either via a nicely produced menu system which decompresses PD to floppy disk or directly from the Workbench.

There's the usual selection of games, demos, animations, music modules and fonts. None of the files are particularly original – if you already own a PD compilation, the chances are that you'll already own most of the files on offer. For first-time CD buyers, however, *PD Galore* is well worth considering.



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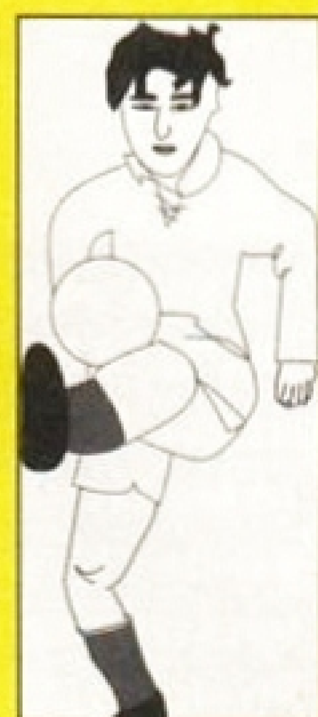
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PageStream 3.0c

Marcus Dyson takes a second look at what should, and still could be the Amiga's finest DTP package.

The arrival of *PageStream 3.0* in the *AF* offices a few months ago was one of the great moments of last year. Not simply because one of the most eagerly-awaited Amiga programs of all time had arrived, but also because it turned out to be such a let down. A very impressive features list was totally eclipsed by an unnerving propensity to crash. Printing wasn't all it should have been and not all of that extensive features list had been implemented.

Soft Logik said that they were aware of the situation, and that they would redress the balance. And that is just what they have done. Ever since the first release, updates to *PageStream* have been popping up on the BBS of the world with incredible frequency. The latest (at time of writing) was *V3.0c*, and we felt that the program was sufficiently improved to take another look.

The first, and most important improvement in *3.0c* is its general stability: gone are the frequent and infuriating crashes. But I have to say that despite the box claiming a RAM requirement of 3Mb, I could not get it to run in 4Mb, it refused to open a new document, and kept doing so until I added another couple of megs.

Typing text on to the page is much quicker than it was in *3.0*, but it is still far slower than is acceptable. PostScript fonts display quickly, and screen redraw times in general appear to have improved, but again, if Soft Logik can improve this further it would be more than welcome.

3.0's reluctance to print was a major bugbear. If there are two things you want a DTP package to do they are: not crash, and print. *3.0c* is an improvement in both these vital areas. The improvements in *3.0c*'s printing are too numerous to mention, but they include fixing crash problems with the preferences printer driver, implementing a Stop Printing gadget, improved Epson support, and improved PostScript font printing.

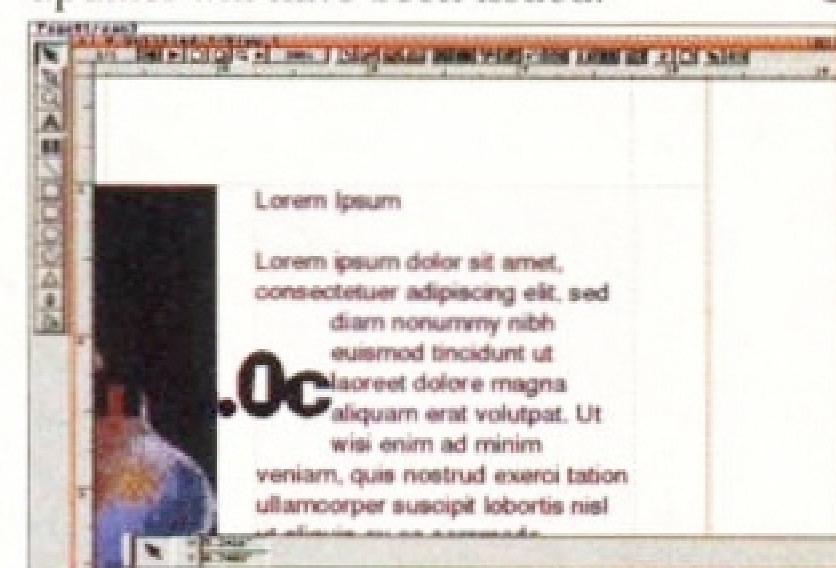
Problems with text importing have also been addressed. Where *3.0* had trouble with *Final Writer* text files overlapping column edges, *3c* now has different, and far less serious bugs with *Final Writer* text import.

General improvements like improved snap to grid, faster menu scrolling and autoscrolling of the screen window when you are dragging a box to re-size it all add to the program's usability. The BME image processor bundled with *PageStream 3.0c* is also improved, with added features and greater stability.

All in all, *PageStream 3.0c* is beginning to be the program many of us hoped it would be, there is still much work to be done on the package, but by the time you read this two, and maybe more, new updates will have been issued.



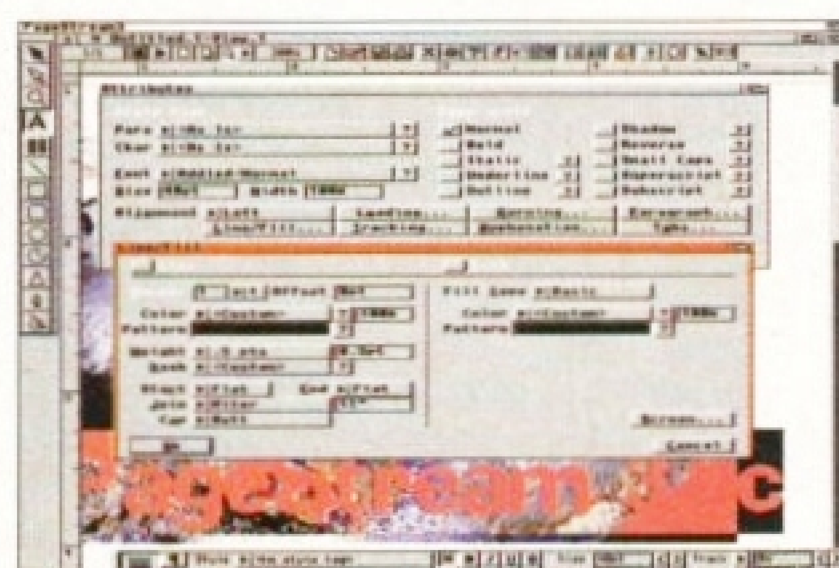
***PageStream 3.0c* has got improved support for fonts, making it capable of using more PD fonts. Improved functions in *3c* also help update your font list.**



Now that the program does not crash (at least not often) you are free to investigate the numerous included *ARexx* macros.



Screen redraw for colour bitmaps is still a little on the slow side, but boy do they look good!



These impressive and well laid out menus are excellent, but as yet you can't re-colour text. A major problem for serious colour design!

PAGESTREAM 3.0c

DISTRIBUTOR
Meridian 0181 543 3500

PRICE
£269.95 or as a free upgrade via on-line services and bulletin boards.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS
At least 4Mb and a hard disk

SPEED ●●●
Could still be much faster, but that goes for all Amiga DTP programs.

MANUAL ●●●●●
Soft Logik manuals are always good, this is no exception. Weighty, accessible and comprehensive.

ACCESSIBILITY ●●●●
The most accessible Amiga DTP package ever, despite its power and huge feature list.

FEATURES ●●●●●
The list is just as impressive as last time, but now more of them work.

VALUE ●●●
Not quite there yet, but if they keep on improving it at this rate, some time soon this program will be awesome.

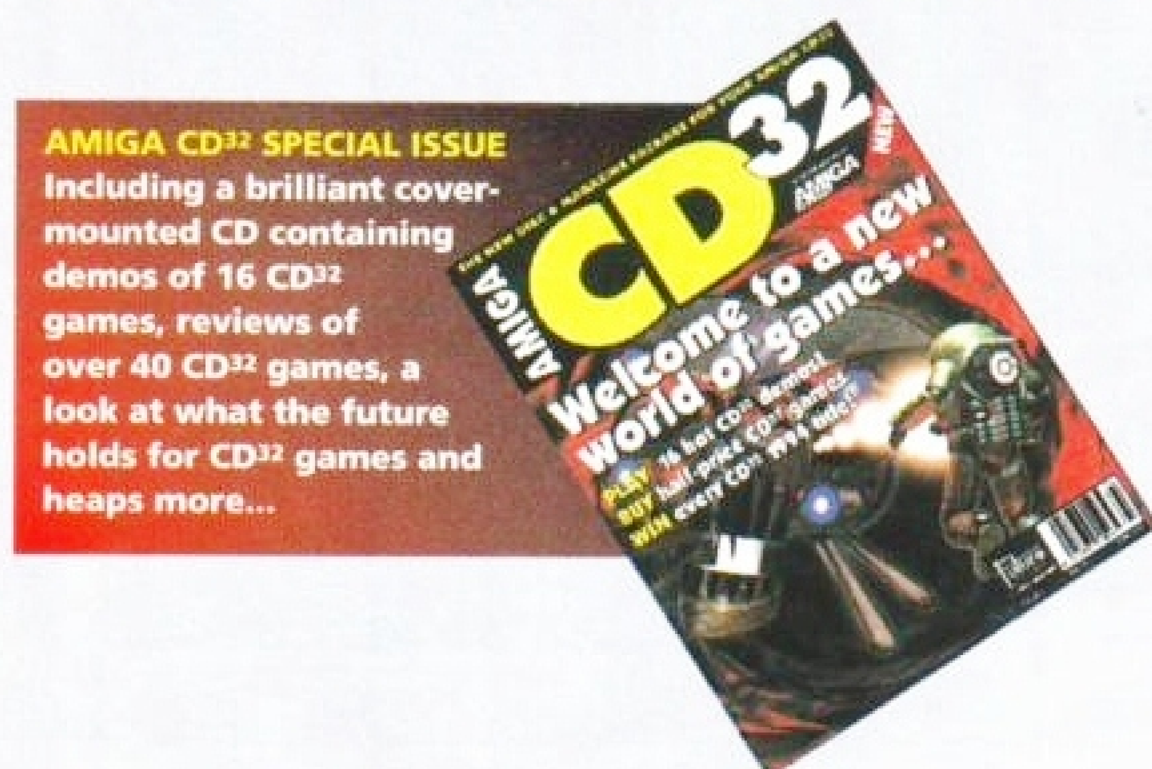
"PageStream is shaping up to be the package everyone hoped it would be, but there's still some work to do."

78%

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AMIGA CD32 SPECIAL ISSUE
Including a brilliant cover-mounted CD containing demos of 16 CD32 games, reviews of over 40 CD32 games, a look at what the future holds for CD32 games and heaps more...

ISSUE 62: AUGUST 1994
Coverdisks: Complete music package *OctaMED Pro V5* **worth £30** and demo of the motor mogul game *Detroit*.
Main Feature: The Amiga's role in the interactive television revolution.
Serious: Zappo CD-ROM drive, Microbotics SX-1, Blizzard A1230-II accelerator card, HiSoft Basic v2, graphics card, Retina Z3 Maxon screen blanker.
Games: Banshee, Kick Off 3, Empire Soccer, Benefactor, Kings Quest VI, Burntime, Bump 'n' Burn and Mega Race preview.

ISSUE 60: JUNE 1994
Coverdisks: Complete version of *InterSpread* **worth £20**, *Demo Maniac* and *DreamWeb* demos.
Main Features: Computer art packages, Commodore A4000T, round-up of education packages.
Serious: Music-X 2.0, Fed-CASE, PhotoworX, Dir Works, Humanoid, inkjet printers.
Games: Syndicate Missions, Sierra Soccer, Elfmania, Tactical Manager, Heimdall 2, Traps 'n' Treaures.



ISSUE 58: APRIL 1994
Coverdisks: Three Coverdisk issue: *Music-X* **worth £199**, plus *ProVector* structured artpackage **worth £100** and *Total Carnage* and *Dozer* demos.
Main Feature: Full Motion Video.
Serious: Studio 16, Vista Pro Lite, Art Department Professional 2.5, ClariSSA, Lightrave, Personal Paint 4.
Games: Microcosm, Legacy Of Sorasil, Manchester United Premier League Champions, Perihelion, Championship Manager Italia, Hyperion, The Naughty Ones.



ISSUE 55: JAN 1994
Coverdisks: Full *DiskMaster 2* utility **worth £50**, plus *Beneath A Steel Sky* demo.
Main Feature: Beginners' special
Serious: Adorage 2, Final Writer, Vidi-24, 24-bit graphics cards, Fargo Primera colour printer, Multiface Card 3.
Games: Liberation, Genesia, Skidmarks, Stardust, Mortal Kombat, Holiday Lemmings, F1.

ISSUE 54: CHRISTMAS 1993
Coverdisks: Full *SuperJAM!* music package **worth £75** plus exclusive *Cannon Soccer* hybrid.
Main Feature: Piracy: the kiss of death?
Serious: Magic Lantern, Edit Mate, Money Matters 3, One-Stop Music Shop, Montage, GVP A1230 Turbo+.
Games: Frontier – Elite II, Hired Guns, F117A Nighthawk, Cannon Fodder, The Settlers, Kingmaker, Rules Of Engagement.



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Packed with facts and figures, the *Encyclopedia* contains an extensive A-Z of the world of Amiga plus a comprehensive round-up of every product reviewed in *Amiga Format* up to issue 44.

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NO.8: THE AMIGA FORMAT 1994 ANNUAL
Expert analysis of what 1994 had in store for the Amiga plus looks at the best of the previous year's serious software, budget titles, demos, games etc.

NO.9: BEGINNERS' GUIDE
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ISSUE 64: OCTOBER 1994
Coverdisks: Video titling package *TV*Text Professional* worth £129, *Theme Park* demo.
Main Feature: We show you how to harness the Amiga's remarkable video and graphics power.
Serious: Geniock round-up, Lightwave 3.5, Protext 6.5, Tabby, TV*Text Pro v2, book reviews.
Games: Super Stardust, Ruff 'n' Tumble, Detroit, Vital Light.

ISSUE 66: DECEMBER 1994
Coverdisks: *Tiger Cub* entry level music package from Dr T, *Zeewolf* demo.
Main Feature: The history of RISC.
Serious: Wordworth versus Final Writer, Easy Ledgers 2, 3D special effects products, Video Backup System 3.0, Video Options Card and a CD-ROM roundup.
Games: Mortal Kombat II, Cannon Fodder 2, Tower Assault, Premier Manager 3, Pinball Illusions, Sim City 2000, Overlord, Zeewolf, Fields Of Glory, and Aladdin.

ISSUE 67: JANUARY 1995
Coverdisks: Three-disk spectacular featuring *AMOS Professional* worth £50, *Sensible World Of Soccer* and *ATR* plus *Lion King*.
Main Feature: How to get your game published.
Serious: Photogenics, V-Lab Motion, Wordworth 3.1SE, Aura, Mo-Miga, Lola L1500, CD Software, Stocking fillers.
Games: Sensible World Of Soccer, Jungle Strike, Football Glory, SubWar 2050, Marvin's Marvellous Adventure, Power Drive, Rise Of The Robots, Theme Park 500, Charlie J Cool.

OTHER GREAT ISSUES STILL AVAILABLE

ISSUE 50: SEPTEMBER 1993
Coverdisk: *Deluxe Music Construction Kit 2* demo, *Insectoids 2* arcade blast.
Serious Section: Blitz Basic 2, AMOS Pro Compiler, Vidi-12 AGA, Proper Grammar, RAM expansions, Golden Image scanner, super hi-res monitors, pressure sensitive painting.
Games: Dune 2, Yo! Joe!, D-Day, Ishar 2, Sim Life A1200, Hill Street Blues, Entity, Blade Of Destiny, Man Utd Europe, Global Gladiators, Project X, Zak McKracken And The Alien Mindbenders, Gunboat, Face Off.

ISSUE 49: AUGUST 1993
Coverdisk: *Stardust* demo and *Genesis 3D*.
Serious Section: InterOffice, Trifecta 500 LX, Home Music Kit, SyQuest IDE drive, Home Music Kit, joysticks round-up, accelerators round-up.
Games: Goal!, The Lost Vikings, War In The Gulf, Syndicate, A320 Airbus, Gunship 2000, Mig-29, The Immortal, Fulcrum, Space Legends, Prey, Pinball Magic, Bully's Sporting Darts, The Addams Family, Robocod.

ISSUE 48: JULY 1993
Coverdisk: *Syndicate, ProTracker v3.10B* and *Adorage* demos.
Serious Section: GVP Impact Vision 24, Emplant, typing tutors, Canon bubblejet printers, Power high density disk drive, ARK Soft, Educational CD.
Games: Worlds Of Legend, Battle Isle 93, Firehawk, Morph, Championship Manager, Reach For The Skies, Final Fight, Transartica M1 Tank Plat, Rodland, Pirates, International Soccer Challenge, Ancient Art Of War In The Skies, F-19 Stealth Fighter.

ISSUE 47: JUNE1993
Coverdisk: *Disposable Hero, Euphoria AMOS* source codes.
Serious Section: Retina, G-Lock, Personal Write, ADI Junior, Rave, Adorage, TV Paint 2, Order 2.05, Vanilla Monitors.
Games Section: Superfrog, Graham Gooch World Class Cricket, Cohort II Tom Landry Strategy Football, International Rugby Challenge, Human Race – The Jurassic Levels, Sink Or Swim, Whale's Voyage, Nippon Safes Inc., Woody's World, Beavers, Strike Fleet.

ISSUE 46: MAY 1993
Coverdisk: *Charlie Chimp, Fraction Goblins, Atoms* demos, *Check V4.*
Serious Section: Pro Page 4, Kid Pix, Bars & Pipes Pro 2, Real 3D 2, Vista Pro 3, Type Smith, DOS Lab, educational round-up, The Insider Book Guides.
Games: Lemmings 2, 1869, B-17 Flying, Fortress, Scrabble, Knightmare, Desert Strike, Storm Master, Walker, Legend, Body Blows, Chuck Rock 2, Arabian Nights, Trivial Pursuit, Terminator 2.

ISSUE 45: APRIL 1993
Coverdisk: *Dong!* game demo, image processing and multimedia demo.
Serious Section: Video HD Backup, CanDo 2, Musicolor, Directory Opus 4, GVP's Image FX, A1200 accelerators, Alfa Power HD.
Games: A-Train, Bard's Tale Construction Set, Abandoned Places 2, Alien 3, Flashback, Hero Quest, Crystal Kingdom Dizzy, The Chaos Engine, International Tennis.

ISSUE 42: JANUARY 1993
Coverdisk: *Lemmings 2 – The Tribes*, AMOS programming language.
Serious Section: RocKey, Zappo A500 hard drive, Zappo external floppy drive, Noddy's Playtime, Morph Plus.
Games Section: 3D Construction Kit 2, Amberstar, Nigel Mansell, Gobliins 2, Humans, KGB, Operation Stealth, Sensible Soccer 93, Combat Classics, Leeds United Champions, Motorhead.

ISSUE 37: AUGUST 1992
Coverdisks: Animation Station, International Sports Challenge.
Serious Section: ImageMaster, Order database, Sequencer One+, AmiNet.
Games Section: Championship Manager, D-Generation, Discovery, Epic, Ashes Of Empire.

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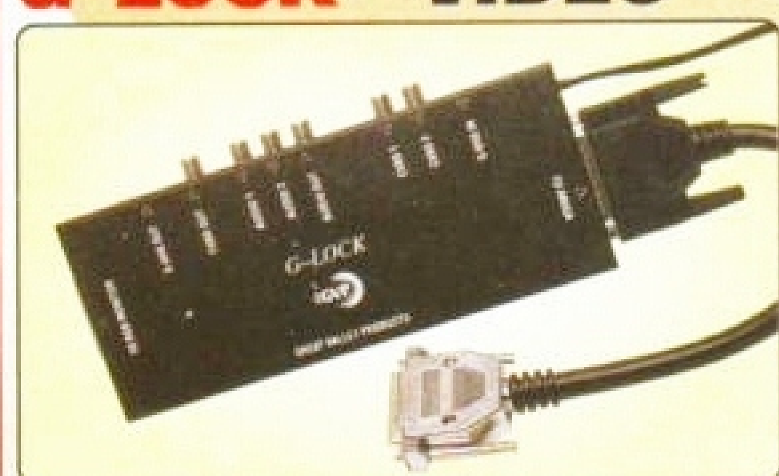
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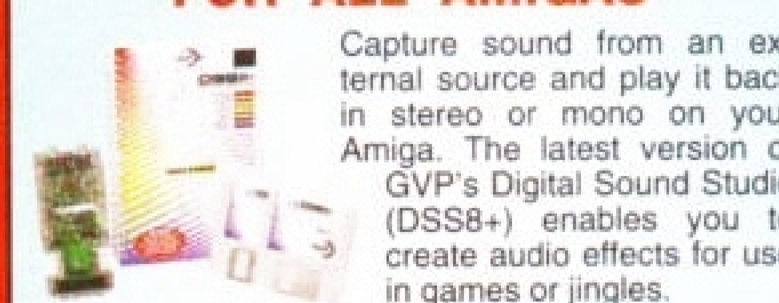
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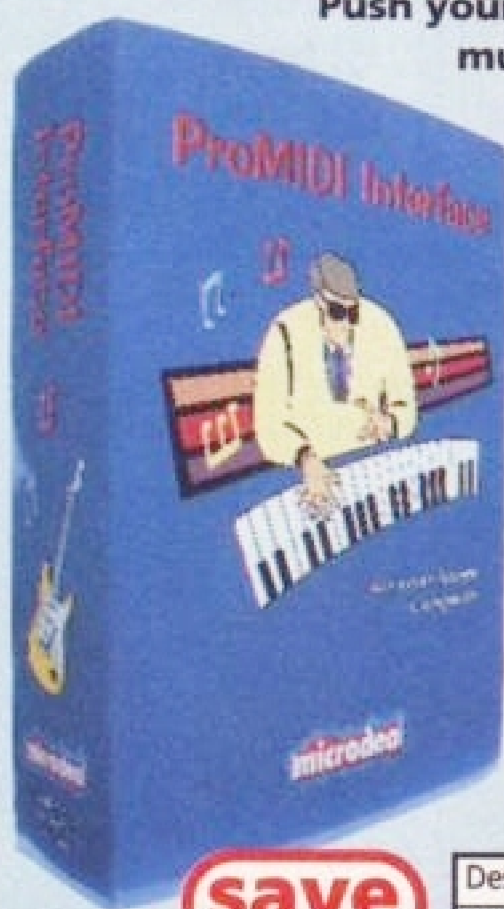
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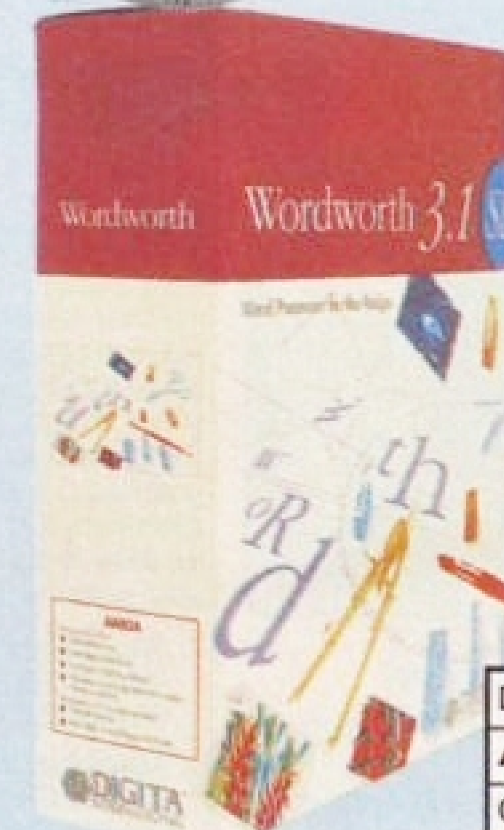
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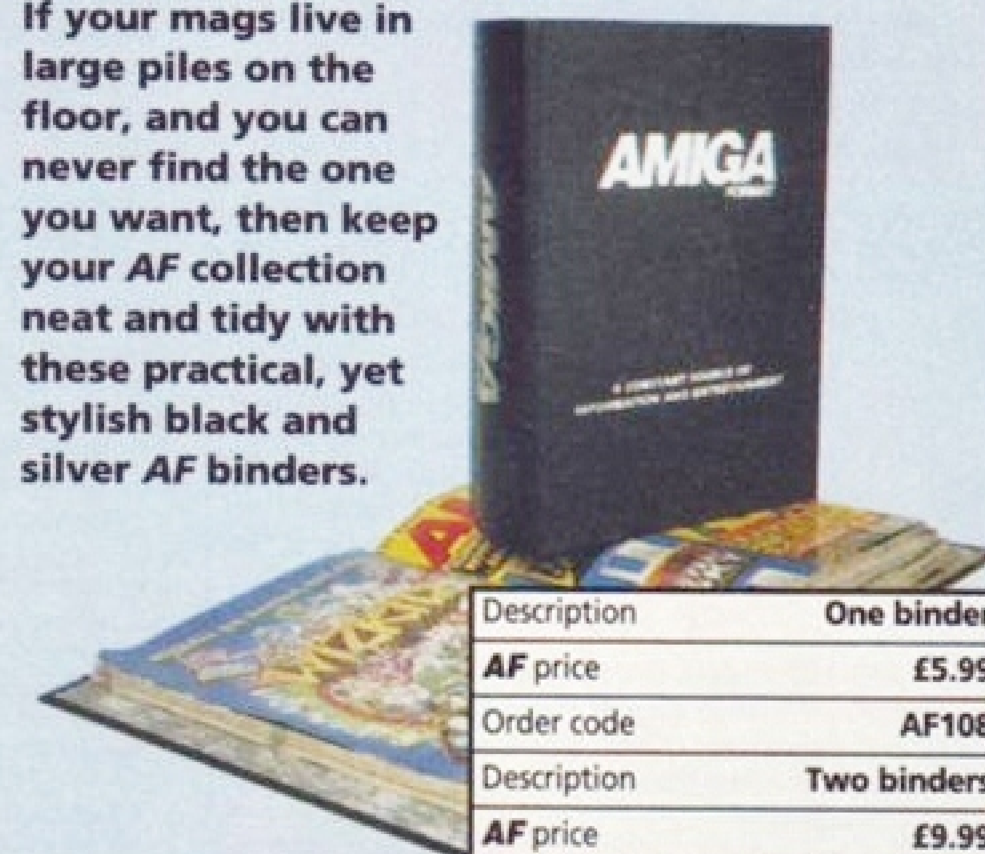
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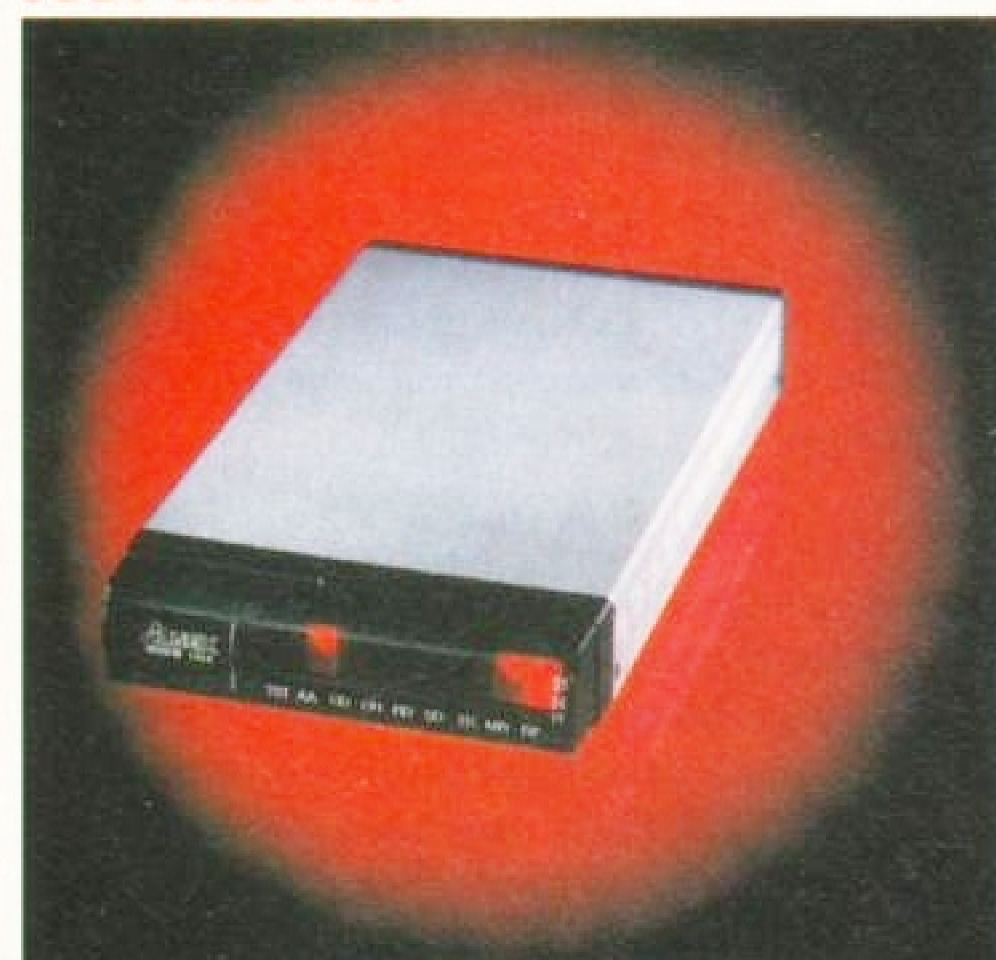
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Workbench

Do you need guidance with your Amiga-related problems? Then turn to Nick Veitch for comfort, advice, reassurance and the occasional gratuitous insult. Write to Nick at Workbench, *Amiga Format*, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath, Avon BA1 2BW.

JUST THE FAX



The ACEEX 1414 modem, available from Power Computing on 01234 273000.

In your September issue, Jason Holborn reviewed the ACEEX 1414 fax modem. I have the ACEEX 1496 fax modem, probably the model before the 1414, and the *TrapFax* program, all linked to an A4000. Unfortunately, I cannot (after more than two months of testing) receive or send a fax.

Did you use the ACEEX 1414 with *TrapFax* and what were the settings you used? As a modem my machine works perfectly well with *NComm* but if I transfer these settings to *TrapFax* nothing works. If, after an unsuccessful attempt with *TrapFax*, I switch to *NComm*, I can make a connection to a BBS or the Internet, but everything enters as garbage.

Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Guy Weyens, gweyens@vub.ac.be

Although we don't have any information on the 1496, I think you'll find that it has Class 1 fax capability. Unfortunately, *TrapFax* only works with Class 2 fax modems, so this is probably where the problem lies. The best thing you can do is get hold of a program called *GPFax*, which handles Class 1 fax modems, and is available from First Computer Centre on 0113 2319444, priced £49.99.

The problem with the corrupted Comms calls is probably something to do with the initialisation of the *TrapFax* software. Make sure your Comms software does an ATz initialisation string to reset the modem.

AN INCH TOO FAR

I have a basic A1200 and I want to add a hard drive. I have found one at a reasonable price but the problem is that it is an IDE 3.5-inch IBM drive and I am unsure whether it will work or not.

DS Pullen, E-mail

Ah, the perennial question. It should work. There is no reason why it shouldn't, but there are two problems with it. If it is just a mechanism – will it fit inside the A1200 case? This varies from

Continued overleaf ➡

PARNET WORRIES

First let me say welcome to the Net. It's big, exciting and hopelessly disorganised. Good to see you there. Anyway I have a slight problem. This year I bought a CD32. I also acquired an SX-1. I had hoped to connect these with my old A500 which has a hard drive. I got hold of a copy of *Parnet*, and made the cable. Unfortunately, it doesn't seem to work.

At the moment I'm running Workbench 3 on the CD32, from floppy, and Workbench 2 on the A500 from the hard drive. Is the problem with the hardware or software do you think? Will I have to upgrade my A500 to Workbench 3? I have already tried running the set-up with Workbench 2, but I have not tried downgrading the Kickstart on the SX-1.

Roland Ward, E-mail

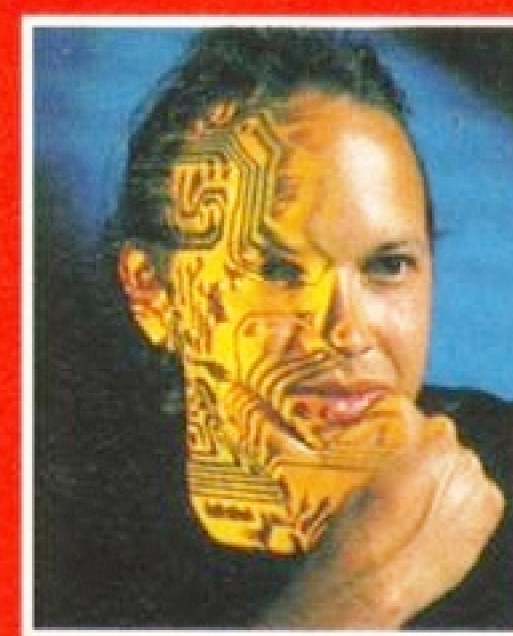
There shouldn't be any problem running Parnet over different versions of Workbench. We have used Parnet successfully between a 1.3 and 2.04/3.0 machine with no problems.

Check the cable. Try testing all the connections with a multimeter to be sure that there are no shorts or dry joints. Make sure that the software is set up properly, and that the correct client and host configurations are made.



Don't forget that the second issue of *Amiga CD32* is on sale at all good newsagents.

IF YOU HAVE A QUERY...



Nick Veitch

At *Amiga Format* we aim to answer as many questions as possible, and attempt to sort out all of your problems.

Of course, there are always more questions than answers, so we prioritise queries according to the following factors:

- **FREQUENCY.** If a lot of people seem to be having problems with their Supersonic KY3000 printers, then we will print one letter and the definitive answer, encompassing all the most frequently posed problems.
- **DIFFICULTY.** If the problem is actually something which only someone with some insider technical knowledge would be able to solve, it is more likely to be answered in these pages than a problem which arises simply because you haven't read the documentation.
- **IMPACT.** Quite simply, a question which involves you not being able to use your machine or some peripheral or software will be given priority over a difficulty which is little more than a slight inconvenience.

Unlike some magazines we won't just concentrate on the areas of expertise we are most familiar with, we will take on any problem (as long as there is an Amiga involved). As you will appreciate, we do get a lot of Workbench questions every month. If you want to get yours noticed, here are a few tips:

DO

- Be concise.
- Detail the actual problem as best as you can.
- Where applicable, describe the sequence of events that caused the problem.
- Give details of the equipment you are using (including which version of Workbench and which model of Amiga you have).
- Make sure your question is relevant and wouldn't be more easily solved by getting in touch with the dealer from whom you bought the goods.

DON'T

- Spend three pages telling us about your Aunt Ethel and only then explain your problem.
- Write in with questions like: 'I added a hard drive to my Amiga and it doesn't work. What can I do?' (Which machine? Which drive?)
- Send an SAE expecting a personal reply. The chances are extremely slim.

Please bear these points in mind and remember that we are trying our best to help you.

mechanism to mechanism. Almost certainly you will have to modify your machine to accommodate it – you will at least have to cut the metal shielding. Secondly, if it does work, you need to get a power cable for it. Unlike 2.5-inch drives, the larger ones require a separate power cable. You can get around this by connecting it to the floppy power point.

In short, the answer is that you can do this if you know what you are doing and don't mind bits and pieces of your A1200 being left out of the box when you put it back together.

Or you could try getting a hard drive from someone who specialises in such things, such as Gasteiner (0181 345 6000) or HiQ (0181 909 3885), who will offer to fit it and also give some sort of guarantee.

PC DOWNLOADS

I read with interest Scott Bovey's letter (PC Downloads, Workbench *AF66*) about the problems he was having downloading Amiga software from the Internet with a PC. I used to be plagued by this problem when I was at university and found that you have two choices:

1) Get an MS-DOS version of LHA to split the archives. They do exist – try using Archie or posting to an MS-DOS group on Usenet.

2) Better still use the Backup command on the PC to back up a directory of files you've downloaded to 720K disks, and use an Amiga version of *Restore* to get them back to your Amiga. The latest version of *Restore* for the Amiga can be found on Aminet: pcres250.lhamisc/emu40K+PcRestoreV2.50. (This should be on one line.) Try ftp.doc.ic.ac.uk.

EF Pritchard, efp90@nuke.dircon.co.uk

Thank you very much. I hope that the subject is well and truly dealt with.

IMPROVED SIGNAL

A technician repaired my standard A600 and he said that there are three ways to connect a TV to the Amiga and that I was using the third best.

I have got the line to the aerial socket in the TV but he mentioned that the best way was to go through my VCR. Can you elaborate on this and tell me what leads I need?

Scott Macdonald, E-mail

If you have a video with a composite input (which virtually all of them do), then you can connect the Composite Out from the A1200 for a much better picture. The lead you need depends on your video. The output from the A1200 is a single phono for video, and two phonos for sound. Your video has either phono connectors for all of these (if it is an older model) or a SCART socket. So, the connectors you need are either phono-phono x 3 or Phono-SCART.

Almost any High Street video store should have these cables, and you can expect to pay between £5 and £8 for the SCART, and significantly less for the straight phonos.

RENDER WONDER

I have an A1200, which I am thinking of upgrading, mainly so I can use it for ray-tracing. I am currently using *Imagine 2* (the *AF53* Coverdisk version), but I am seriously considering getting hold of *Lighters*.

1) I have been planning on buying a Viper accelerator, there are a number of versions available, so would I be better off buying a faster accelerator and no FPO, or getting one of the slower ones with an FPU? Would this depend on which program I decided to use?

2) I will be adding 8Mb of memory to the board, so do I have to buy two 4Mb SIMMS, or will one 8Mb one be OK?

3) Can you recommend a different accelerator board, or would the Viper be my best choice? I am not planning on spending much over £450 on the board, including the SIMMS, because I am also going to have to get a hard disk, so please bear this in mind.

4) Finally, on a different subject, is there an ADA compiler available for the Amiga (preferably PD)? I am doing a Computer Science degree and have to use the language, but I am forced to use the university PCs to compile my programs, even though I can write them on my Amiga.

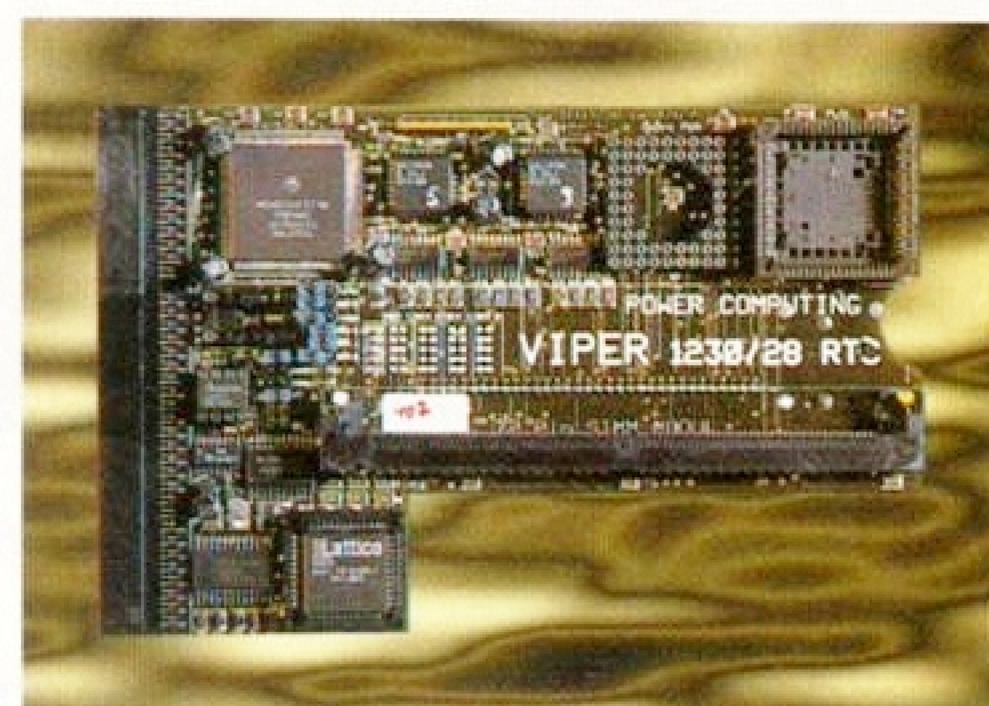
I would be very grateful if you could answer this. I have been getting this magazine since about issue 7 of *ST/Amiga Format*, when I got my first Amiga, so I think I deserve it.

NT Alford, E-mail

1) It would depend on the speed of the FPU. Certainly using *Imagine*, a 16MHz 030 with a 50MHz FPU would render faster than a 25MHz 030 on its own. However, generally speaking, faster processors give you a faster machine, which is useful, and usually they have FPU sockets, so you could get an FPU later on for a further increase.

To sum up the rest of your questions, go for the fastest processor and save up for an FPU at a later date. The Viper takes an 8Mb SIMM (in fact it will take a 128Mb SIMM too), so it is probably best to go for one of those. The Viper is a very good choice. If you are unsure, check out our recent round-up (*AF63*) for more information.

ADA compilers. Hmmm, there used to be one years ago, but I don't know of any currently available. I'm sure someone will write in to correct me though.



The Viper 030, just one of the accelerator cards looked at in our round-up in *AF63*.

POWER PROBLEMS

I am using a CD³² with an SX-1 board. Added to this are two floppy drives, a hard drive and a 4Mb SIMM. My problem is that the normal CD³² powerpack isn't providing enough power and so the whole set-up either crashes horribly or simply won't start up. Do you know where I can get hold of a higher rated powerpack?

Daniel Parkington, E-mail

The simple answer is call HiQ on 0181 909 3885.

MEMORY MADNESS

Hi, of late I have been regularly visited by the legendary Guru Of Meditation himself – an occasional visit is inevitable I suppose, but the regularity on my system at the moment is beginning to get me down. I live in fear every working moment that he will pop his head through the window any moment.

He doesn't seem to mind which program I'm using, I've had him visit while using *Directory Opus*, *NComm* and a few others though there is one program that never fails to get his attention. When I'm playing *Legends Of Valour*, he waits till I have been doing exceptionally well then pops up and tells me it's time to reboot.

The errors he has quoted seem to be different every time though, to be honest the language he speaks seems foreign and garbled...

SAD MODE

I have several questions about CD-ROMs and IDE interfaces for you.

1. To use an IDE CD-ROM, can I just plug it into an IDE interface (such as my Alpha Power)?

2. Will I be able to play games for the CDTV and A570?

3. Can I buy an expansion port splitter and use an A570 and my Alpha Power with the expansion port?

4. Because I have two IDE-controllers can I use four IDE devices?

5. In your October issue you advised readers not to sample direct from digital audio if listening to Depeche Mode. Why? I do it all the time and it works fine for me.

Johan Östberg Hagmarksvägen 11 S-69436 Hallsberg Sweden

1. Yes. If you do not have Workbench 3.1 though, you will have to get hold of the CD filing system to be able to access the CD drive properly. There are versions of this and other CD utilities available in PD libraries, although if you are buying an IDE CD-ROM drive, you should ask if you get these utilities with it.

2. Quite a few CDTV games work on any CD-ROM drive properly connected to an Amiga.

3. Such a device does not, unfortunately, exist – mainly for practical reasons.

4. It depends what they are. You can certainly use four IDE hard drives.

5. Because it rots your brain. Just look at Jason Holborn – Depeche Mode are his favourite group and it's turned him into a bumbling, saliva dribbling wreck. Be warned!



Gasteiner's CD1200 is CDTV and CD³² compatible. See our CD round up in *AF66* for more info.

```
#80000003.002E0488
#80000004.00224210
#80000004.002B3620
#80000004.00341090
#8000000B.00019250
```

I've tried reinstalling my hard disk with a back-up from a couple of month's ago when my life was free from his visits, but to no avail, I've also tried playing *Legends Of Valour* from floppies but still the Guru seems to find a way in.

My system consists of: A2000, GVP HC8 with 52Mb hard drive and 2Mb of SIMMS, Pro ROM Swapper with Workbench 1.3 and Workbench 2.04 ROMs installed and an A2286 Bridgeboard (though I don't use this any more). Also until recently I had an extra 2Mb on a Supra RAM board which I gave to my brother-in-law who also has an A2000, but my troubles began before its removal.

Since the system behaves normally for ages then crashes for no reason. Could this be caused by some sort of hardware failure? Is there any other possible cause for this behaviour?

Simon Kaye, E-mail

The Guru messages are all almost certainly to do with memory I'm afraid. Whether this is a faulty chip, or one that has just become unseated I wouldn't know. The best thing to do is to take everything apart and push in, with a reasonable amount of force, all the socketed chips.

If this doesn't work, it could be a thermally damaged chip, which goes faulty when it warms up. The only way to find out which one is to use a special electrician's freeze spray, which you can get from Maplins and most electronics stores.

CUSTOM SCREEN SAVERS

Is it possible to use a *DPaint IV* animation as a screen saver on an A1200? The system is fitted with a 130Mb hard drive and Viper accelerator with 4Mb of Fast RAM. If it is possible, what software do I need and where can I get it from?

Mike Jones, E-mail

The popular customisation program, *Maxxon Magic*, (80%, *AF62*) does not allow you to do this directly, but you could do it via an *ARexx* script. Or better still, you could just write an *ARexx* script to sit in the background and play your animation when nothing else is happening. Either way, you should brush up on *ARexx*.

HARD PROBLEMS

I noticed that in *AF65* Workbench in reply to the letter Hard Disk Hassles, you put the problem down to installation problems. I think the problem is that when the A1200 boots up the AGA chip set is not enabled as far as new screen modes go (a CBM compatibility feature).

On the hard disk startup the SetPatch command enables these modes. Older software runs perfectly well if the new modes are not in effect (AGA chip set is on – no adjustment of the boot prefs needed) but refuse to run after the AGA chip set is fully operative after the SetPatch command. The utility *KillAGA* is very useful for solving this problem. *HistoryLine* is one game that works in this way. AGA games enable the new modes themselves.

Hope this clears it up.

Derek Piper, E-mail

Thank you. With complicated hardware/software configurations it is not always possible to test our solutions, so it is nice to get the occasional helping hand from a clued-up reader.

PREPPIE

I bought a 2.5-inch IDE drive for my A1200 at the FES. I followed the instructions from *AF46* to put it into my Amiga. The drive seems to be in working order – the light comes on and I can hear it, but when I try to use *RDPrep* to partition it I get a No SCSI Disks error.

Help! Thanks.

Richard Jones, Glamorgan

Make sure that *RDPrep* is configured correctly. If you select the icon and choose Information from the Workbench menu, a requester appears. One of the tool types will be listed as Device = xxxx. Make sure that the xxxx says scsi.device, because this may be set to something else depending on where you got *RDPrep* from.

Note, although it is an IDE drive, the Workbench driver is called scsi.device.

BAD GAMES

I recently renamed a disk icon. Now I seem to get many problems related to validation. The following error messages appear:

Error validating Games
Block 128093 bad header type
Volume
Games
IS not validated

Games is the new name for the disk icon. These problems occur when I load a disk, try to rename or move or copy drawers, try to get a Snapshot and at various other times.

Saavan Chavda, London

The disk has become invalidated when something has been writing to it. This means that *AmigaDOS* is no longer entirely sure which parts of the disk are being accessed. And in order to prevent any accidental loss of data, it will not let you write to the disk.

Usually Workbench sorts out these problems itself – you may notice some pretty frantic, constant disk activity for several minutes when you boot up. If it is unsuccessful, however, you need to use a disk salvage program such as the PD program *Disksalve2*, or find a commercial alternative.

NOT FAST ENOUGH

I find my Amiga A4000/030 isn't as fast as I would like it to be, in fact waiting for the screen to refresh or opening up a new page in *Final Writer* for example is a real pain.

I want instant results I don't want to wait minutes for a print out from my HP 560 to be processed. I would like a faster machine but finances being as they are I'm stuck with what I've got.

However, and to my question, is it possible to swap my existing 68EC030 processor directly for a full 68040 processor? I think this may tide me over until the RISC processors are available for the Amiga 4000 if this ever comes about.

Andy Gunn, Middlesbrough, Cleveland

No, the 040 is not a pin for pin replacement in that way, so you can't just replace it for a faster machine. The best way to accelerate your machine is to get a Warp Engine card from Premier Vision (0171 721 7050).



The Warp Engine is incredibly fast – more than 50 times faster than an A600, in fact.

SX-1 QUERIES

I own a standard CD32 with an SX-I expansion block and a Zappo floppy drive connected.

1) Can I fit a 180Mb 3.5-inch hard drive from a PC or do I need a 2.5-inch drive?

2) Where can I get the cable?

3) Will I need a new power supply?

4) Will the hard drive have a higher priority at boot-up so that I need to disable it to boot from CD in the same way as the floppy has a higher priority than the CD?

5) Can I use the hard drive prepping software that came with the SX-I or do I need the Workbench HD disk?

6) What kind of SIMMS (what size) does the SX-I take, and where do I get them from?

7) Why doesn't CD0: appear on the boot list when you press the mouse buttons at reset?

8) Why does adding the SX-1 make the CD32 think there is a CC0: When there isn't?

Gary Wilson, <gwilson@teak.shu.ac.uk>

1, 2 and 3. A 3.5-inch drive should work, but the internal connector is only for 2.5-inch drives. In the A1200 this isn't a problem because the power supply can be taken from the floppy port. If you want a 3.5-inch drive, it would be better to get an external one for the SX-1, with its own power supply.

4. You can set the priority of the hard drive when you prep it. It is usually set low by default.

5. If you have software, it should work with the drive – most software, like RDPrep, is generic.

6. Standard 72-pin SIMMS in sizes of 1, 2 or 4Mb. Look in the ads in this issue for a good deal.

7. Possibly because the CD autoconfig hasn't completed by the time the boot menu is called.

8. Because the SX-1 fools the CD32 into thinking it is an A1200, which should have one.



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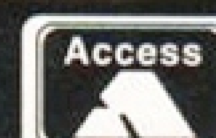
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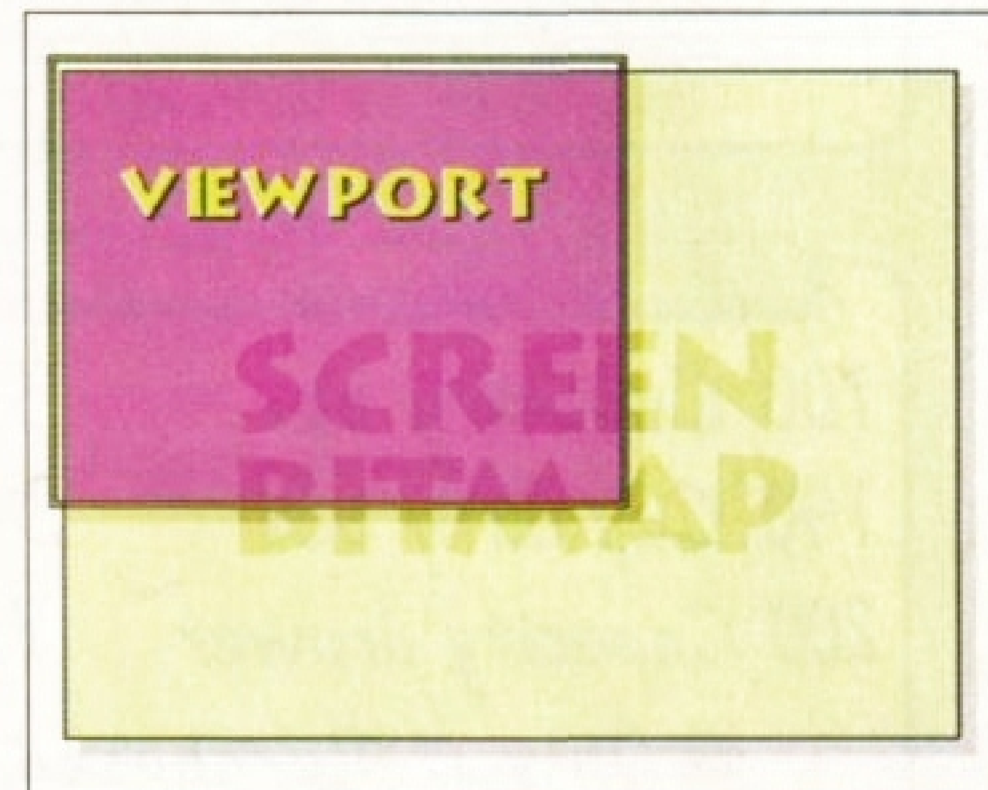
In the first of a six-part series of tutorials, Jason Holborn takes an in-depth look at *AMOS Professional*'s powerful screen handling capabilities.



If you missed the *AF67 AMOS Professional* Coverdisk, turn to page 116 to order your back issue NOW! For details of our *AMOS Pro* manual offer, see page 19.



Most arcade games use two or more overlapping screens. The two status panels here, for example, are completely separate from the main play area.



When you want to resize a screen, *AMOS Professional* works on the screen's viewport rather than the screen bitmap information.

When covering a programming language like *AMOS Pro* that has been specifically optimised for writing games, it's always tempting to dive in at the deep end. We'd all like to become proficient games programmers overnight but that isn't going to happen. The fact is that professional games programmers spend years honing their skills so you're being unrealistic if you think that *AMOS Pro* is suddenly going to enable you to give Sensible's Jon Hare a run for his money.

Don't be put off, though. After all, you have one major advantage that Jon did not enjoy – you have a copy of *AMOS Professional*, probably the easiest to use and most powerful games development language ever produced. Most games programmers have to spend years developing routines that handle sprites and bobs, scroll screens, check for collision detection and so on but with *AMOS Professional* all the work is done for you – you just have to concentrate on the mechanics of your games.

We're not going to dive straight into games programming, though. Instead, we'll be taking a less direct route by concentrating on individual aspects of game design – screen scrolling, how to animate blitter objects, checking for collisions between objects and, of course, the nuts and bolts of writing games.

One of the most fundamental aspects of programming is the screen. Without a screen, a program can't display anything on the Amiga's monitor. As an Amiga user, you probably already know just how powerful your machine's screen hardware is – not only can you create screens in any one of a number of resolutions and colour combinations, but *AMOS* also enables you to mix and match screens so that the display you see on your monitor consists of several independent screen zones, each of which has its own colour depth (how many colours it can display), resolution and palette. In all, a maximum of eight screens can be displayed at any one time.

When you load *AMOS Pro*, it automatically opens a screen for you which can be used to display a maximum of 16 colours in low resolution mode. If this screen isn't to your liking (you might want more colours, for example) then you need to open a screen using the *AMOS Pro* Screen Open command. Here's a quick rundown of the Screen Open command.

```
Screen Open N,W,H,C,M
```

N – The N parameter holds the screen number you wish to allocate to a screen. The screen number (a value between 0 and 7) is a value which *AMOS* uses to distinguish between screens.

W – The W parameter defines the width (in pixels) of a screen. A low-resolution screen should be 320 pixels and high-resolution should be 640.

H – The H parameter defines the height (in pixels) of your screen. The value you use depends on whether the screen is interlaced or not and whether you wish the screen to be in PAL or NTSC mode. See the box on screen combinations.

C – This parameter tells *AMOS Pro* how many colours you wish to make available to your screen.

FUN WITH PALETTES

When a screen is first opened, *AMOS Pro* automatically allocates a pre-set selection of colour settings to the screen's own palette. If these don't suit your needs, you can quickly and easily change them using two palette-related commands that *AMOS Pro* provides.

Palette – The Palette command enables you to define a palette en masse – all the colours are defined with a single statement. The format of the Palette command is simple enough, just enter the command followed by a string of three-digit hex numbers (representing RGB values) that define each colour in order one after another (such as colour 0 first, colour 1 next and then colour 2). The following example would set colour 0 (usually the background colour) to black ($000), colour 1 to white ($FFF), colour 2 to red ($F00) and so on.

```
Palette $000,$FFF,$F00,$F0F
```

Colour – The Colour command lets you define any single colour register. Simply tell it the number of the colour you wish to define followed by a three-digit hex value that defines that colour as an RGB value. The following example would set colour 12 to red.

```
Colour 12,$F00
```

SCREEN COMBINATIONS

***AMOS Pro* may not support the A1200's extended AGA screen modes but it does handle the full range of non-AGA screen modes.**

Screen Format	Resolution	Colour Combinations	Screen Mode
PAL Low Resolution	320x256	2,4,8,16,32	Lowres
PAL Low Resolution Laced	320x512	2,4,8,16,32	Lowres+Laced
PAL Medium Resolution	640x256	2,4,8,16	Hires
PAL High Resolution	640x512	2,4,8,16	Hires+Laced

Note – NTSC vertical resolutions are 200 and 400 pixels respectively.

Tutorial

Part 1

NEXT MONTH
THE NEXT STEP IN USING THE AF67 COVERDISK TO WRITE YOUR OWN GAME.

LOADING AND SAVING SCREENS

Once you've opened your screen, you'll want to display something on it. One of *AMOS Pro*'s most useful facilities is its support for the IFF ILBM image file format which, as any Amiga user should know, is a common file format supported by just about every Amiga paint program. What this means is that you can use a paint program such as *DPaint* or *Brilliance* to design graphics for your *AMOS Pro* creations.

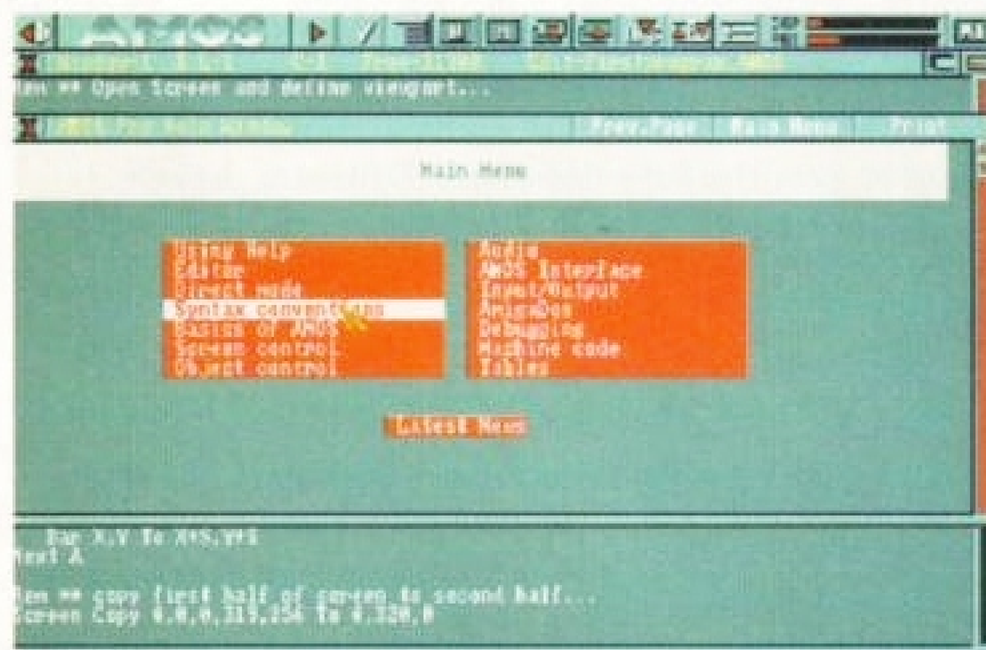
AMOS Pro provides two IFF-related commands – Load IFF and Save IFF. The Load IFF command needs only to be fed the filename of the IFF image you want to use and it loads that image into the current screen. The screen automatically inherits the image's palette too, so you don't have to redefine your screen's palette. Here's an example:



All Amiga paint programs support the IFF file format so you can use them to prepare graphics for your *AMOS Pro* creations.

```
Load IFF "RAM:MyPicture.IFF"
```

You can also force *AMOS Pro* to automatically open a screen for your IFF picture by adding a comma followed by the number of the screen you'd like opened. You can save the contents of an *AMOS Pro* screen too using the Save IFF command. Simply enter the command followed by a file name and *AMOS Pro* saves the current screen off to disk as an IFF file under the filename that you specified.



Screens are important to *AMOS* programs because they act as an interface between the program and the user.

Low-resolution screens can use a maximum of 32 colours and medium and high-resolution screens can use 16.

M – The M parameter tells *AMOS Pro* what type of screen to open – Lowres opens a low-resolution screen, Hires opens a medium/high-resolution screen and adding +Laced to either of these interlaces the screen.

Every screen you open needs its own unique screen number (the S parameter) for *AMOS Pro* to keep track of it when other screens have been opened. You'll find that virtually all of *AMOS Pro*'s screen-related commands need a screen number value so they know which screen to work on.

Some commands (such as drawing commands), work on the current screen so you need some way of telling *AMOS Pro* which screen (if more than one is currently open) it should use. In this case, *AMOS Pro* provides a command called Screen which, when followed by a valid screen number, forces *AMOS Pro* to change the current screen to the one that you specify – entering Screen 2, for example, would change the current screen to screen number 2. *AMOS Pro* enables you to move the current screen around on your monitor display so that it is no longer centralised, using a command called Screen Display. This may not sound particularly useful but it comes in handy when you have more than one screen open because you can use the Screen Display command to position the screens where you want them – you might want a screen with the player's score and lives below the main screen.

The Screen Display command also lets you resize a screen without reopening it. In reality, you're not resizing the screen but its viewport – the window which the Amiga generates to display the screen's bitmap on your monitor. Because you're resizing the viewport, the screen bitmap data is not affected so you can shrink a screen without the data being lost. Stretch the viewport to its original size and the data reappears. Here's the format of the Screen Display command.

```
Screen Display N,X,Y,W,H
```

N – The N parameter holds the number of the screen that you'd like to work on.

X – The X parameter is a value between 112 and 432 that controls where your screen is displayed on the horizontal axis on your monitor. These are hardware values so you may need to experiment to get the value you want. The Amiga automatically rounds these values up to a multiple of 16.

Y – The vertical position. Values lie between 0 and 312 – a value over 300 makes the screen disappear.

W – W defines the width of the viewport. This value is rounded up to the nearest multiple of 16.

H – The height of the screen's viewport.

Once you're finished with a screen, you need to be able to close it and free up the memory that was allocated to the screen to hold its bitmap information. After the screen has been closed, the memory it occupied is made available to your *AMOS* program so that you can open further screens. The command to close a screen is Screen Close followed by the screen's identification number (Screen Close 1, for example).

LISTING

```
Rem *** Screen Handling Demonstration
Rem *** By Jason Holborn

Screen Open 0,320,200,32,Lowres
Screen Open 1,640,17,2,Hires
Screen Display 1,,260,,

Screen 1

Flash Off : Curs Off : Palette $F00,$FFF
Locate 0,0 : Centre "Move me with the
joystick!"
Locate 0,1 : Centre "Press FIRE to Quit"

Screen 1

X=128 : Y=48 : H=0

Repeat
    If Joy(1)=1 Then Y=Y-16
    If Joy(1)=2 Then Y=Y+16
    If Joy(1)=4 Then X=X-16
    If Joy(1)=8 Then X=X+16

    If X>432 Then X=432
    If X<112 Then X=112
    If Y>300 Then Y=300
    If Y<0 Then Y=0

    Wait Vbl
    Screen Display 0,X,Y,,
Until Joy(1)=16

Screen Close 0
```

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GET THE BOOK

If our regular look at *AMOS Professional* programming has whetted your appetite for more then fill that gap with the *Amiga Format* book *Ultimate AMOS*. Covering everything from screen scrolling and sprite animation to possibly the most in-depth look at *AMOS* games programming ever published, *Ultimate AMOS* is a must for all *AMOS* coders. Turn to page 142 to find out more.

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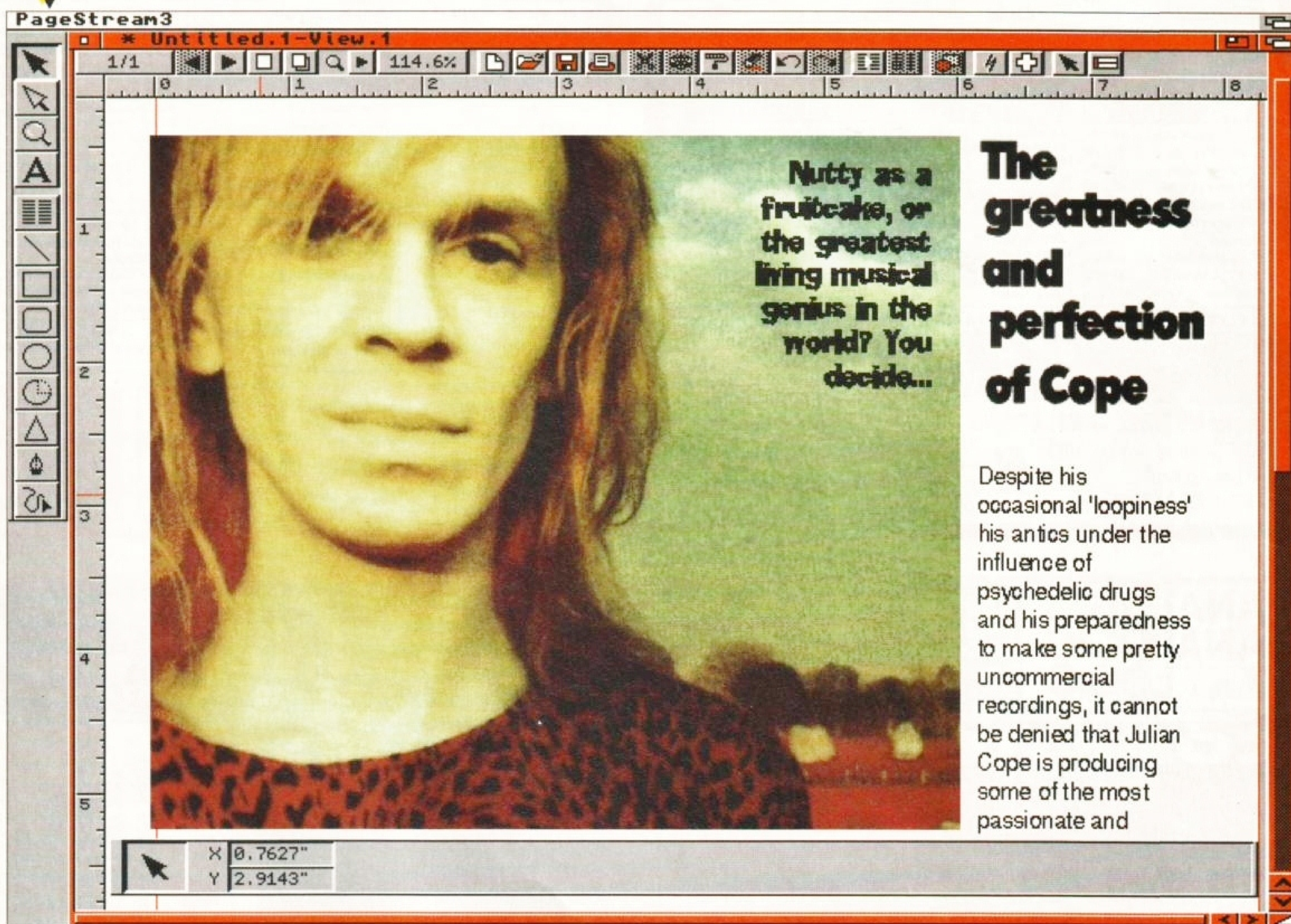
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Better by design

Part 5

Joining the world of periodical publishing is nowhere near as difficult as you might think. Not with your trusty Amiga and a desktop publishing package at hand. Marcus Dyson explains a few of the tricks of the trade.



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We often hear about the power of the press. But what is this mythical power? It is the power to inform, educate and entertain people, it is the power to disseminate information. And since the invention of the photocopier, it is a power that virtually everyone has, to some degree.

Punk art and literature of the late Seventies made good use of the advent of affordable High Street photocopy shops in their fanzines, flyers and posters for gigs. Indeed much of punk's cut-up style, pioneered by the likes of Jamie Reed and Malcolm McClaren was driven by the 'stick it together and photocopy it' ethos.

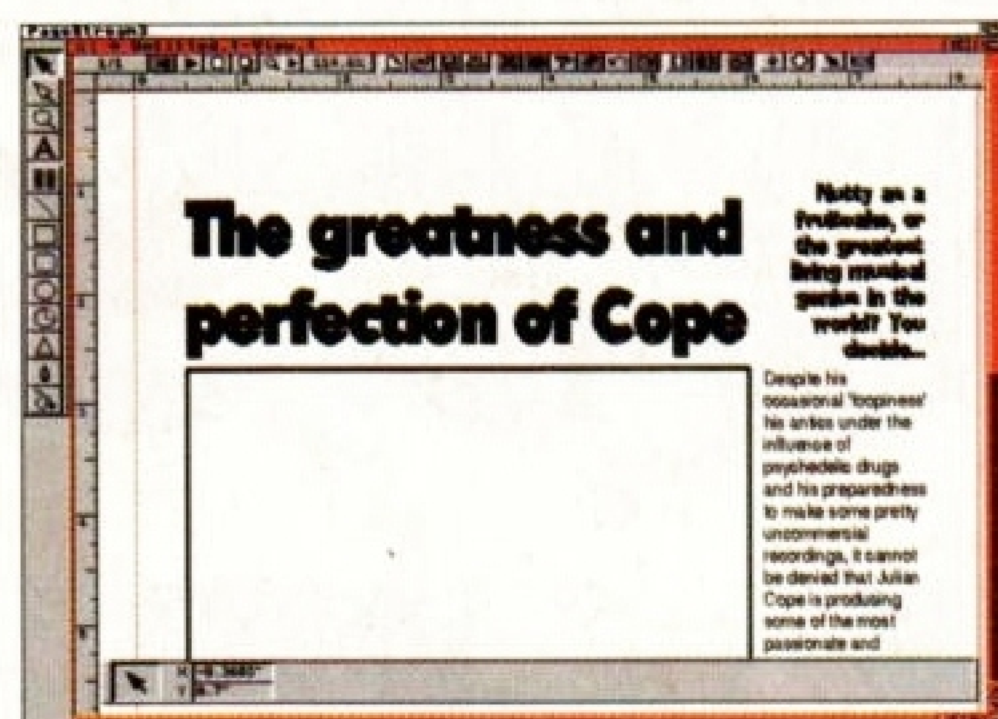
Now that cheap photocopying has been augmented by cheap home computers, the power of the independent press is greater than ever. Your thoughts and passions can now be expressed in a way that is also powerfully designed, and easy to read. But sadly, when I go to a gig these days it's very unusual for anyone to try to sell me a fanzine.

In the early Eighties, there were at least three different fanzines on sale at every gig. These were brief flares of creative ambition which rarely, if ever, made it to issue three. But they were wonderful things, unfettered by the pretensions of the self-styled rock press.

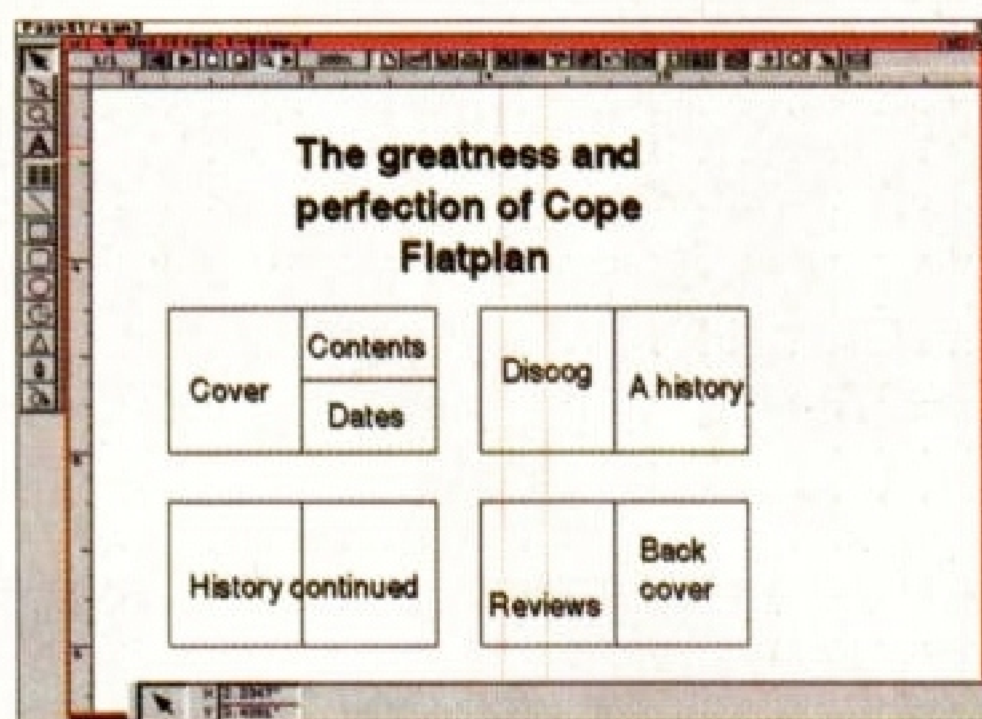
The passing of the fanzine is sad, but sadder still is the fact that the few that are produced these days are often the same sellotape-and-typewriter affairs that were on offer 14 years ago. Hey, I know that many of these are produced by students, and most of them don't have much of a budget, but if you have an Amiga, a copy of *PageSetter 2* and a few hours to spend, you can spread your own particular brand of sedition. Here's how.

CHOOSE THE SUBJECT

OK, it's a bit obvious, but if you hope to sell a few copies of your rag, it should be about a subject



If you don't have a scanner, don't panic. Just define the area you want the picture to fit with an outline box. Then add the picture later using photocopy techniques.



You should draw up a flatplan of the issue. This shows what is going on each page, and makes the job of designing the fanzine a whole lot easier.

Don't just sit down and write straight into your *PageSetter* grid. Work out and list what you intend to include in your fanzine first.

that people are interested in and one which you have some knowledge of. So, if your hobby is sticking your head down toilets, a fanzine on the subject may not be a good idea.

If a more mainstream (but not entirely so, or there will be reams of professionally-produced magazines on WH Smith's shelves) pastime is your passion, or you have a completely different angle on an already well-covered subject, such as the idea of doing a music magazine that can recognise a good tune when it hears one, or a PC magazine that can tell a good game from a semi-interactive graphics demo, then you have found your window.

PLAN THE THING

It's easy to write too much, especially when you are writing about a subject that you are very interested in. An eight-page fanzine on the godlike genius of Julian Cope is a very worthy publication, but not if it comprises of just one huge eulogy to him.

Variety is what makes a mag interesting, so before you even put mouse to mouse mat, write yourself a features list. After every feature put down a word count, and estimate how many pages it should occupy.

COPY FITTING

If you don't know how many pages a feature needs, you need to create a copy-fitting table. Plan your column size, and flow a text file into it in the font and size you want to use. Cut off the text at the bottom of a column, and do a word count. This tells you how many words you can get on a column. Multiply this by the number of columns on a page, and you have a word count per page.

You can now calculate how many pages each feature should have. Don't forget to allow for pictures and headlines. There is no set rule for page planning, it depends on the way you intend the feature to be designed. If you are planning lots of full-page pictures, an article takes up more space than if you intend it to just have a headline and text. It's something you get used to with time.

MAKE A FLATPLAN

A flatplan is a document that forms a diagram of your whole publication. As if you had taken it apart and laid it out on the floor and photographed it from above. Of course, you can't make one by taking your whole publication apart and photographing it from above, because you have to do it before your publication is even started.

Your flatplan can be done in one of two ways, either straight, starting at page one (the cover) and working through to page 16 (or 8 or 32), the back cover. Or in pairs.

What are pairs? Imagine how you will create your mag. If it is to be A5, you will probably photocopy it on to A4 paper, and then fold it and staple it. This is called saddle stitched in the trade, by the way. Now take a few sheets of A4, put them together and fold them to make a 16-page booklet. On page 1 write the number one. Now flip the page and write 2, then 3 and so on until every page is numbered. Now pull your booklet apart and look at the numbers. You will find that 1 and 16 are on the same side of the same sheet, so are 2 and 15, 3 and 14. The only logical coupling is for pages 8 and 9, the centre spread.

So you could make your flatplan up in a logical sequence, or in a printers' sequence (as described above). It is probably better to do it in a logical sequence, because it is easier to see at a glance how many pages each article takes up and to see how they relate to other articles. But it is wise to create a printers' imposition plan too, using the method described above, because when you come to design the thing, you will know which pages to lay out next to each other.

It's even more important that you refer to your book dummy. Turn page 1/16 over and page 2/15 is on the flip side. Flip page 3/14 over and you'll find 5/13 on the other side. It's vital that you make a note of what pages have to be on the back of each sheet, as well as on the front!

WRITE IT!

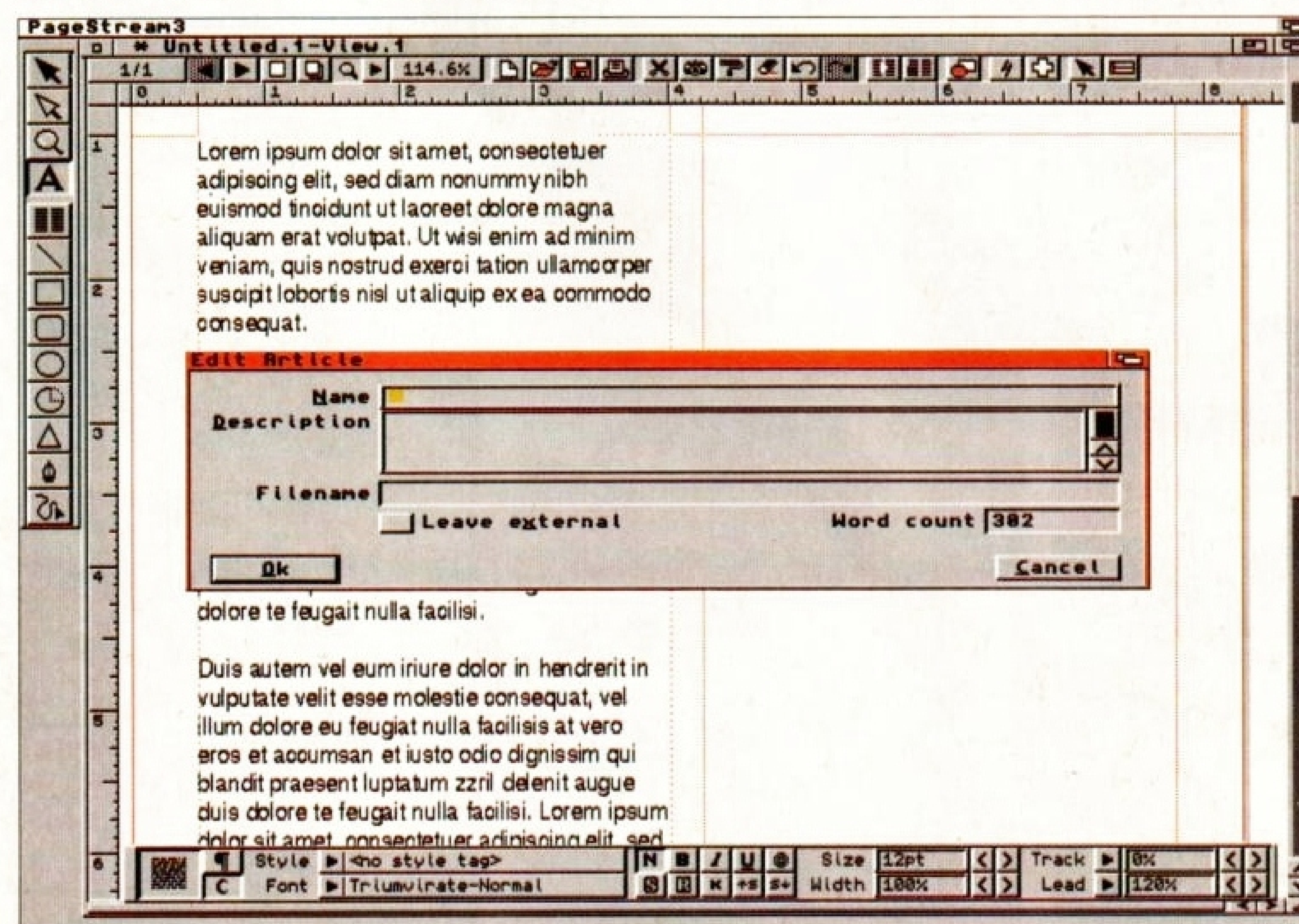
If you're creating a whole publication yourself, you probably won't want to write all of it. Sure, if it is a one-off, and not time sensitive, you might be able to. But if you hope to get one done every month or two, or if the subject matter would suffer if it were not distributed quickly, then you have either saddled yourself with a hell of a lot of work, or you are going to need some help.

If your publication is going to be the newsletter of a club or society, then you have the membership to turn to for articles, letters and ideas. Otherwise you will either have to rely on some friends, or actively seek the help of others. If you are editing the publication as well as designing it, then you should commission someone to write your articles.

Make sure you commission them in writing with a description of what is required, and get them to sign it. Check the commission has a deadline date on it too, and enforce the deadline strictly.

If you want to include pictures in your fanzine, you'll be pleased to know that you don't have to have a scanner. If you simply create a box (with a border) as part of your document you can add pictures later.

Simply photocopy the pictures to size, using a half-tone screen which you can obtain from good stationers or graphics supplies shops. Then paste them in to the boxes you have left for them, and photocopy the result to produce your finished publication.



Before you write anything for a magazine, you should know what word count you are aiming for. Count the words in one column of text, using dummy copy, and use this as a basis for your calculations.

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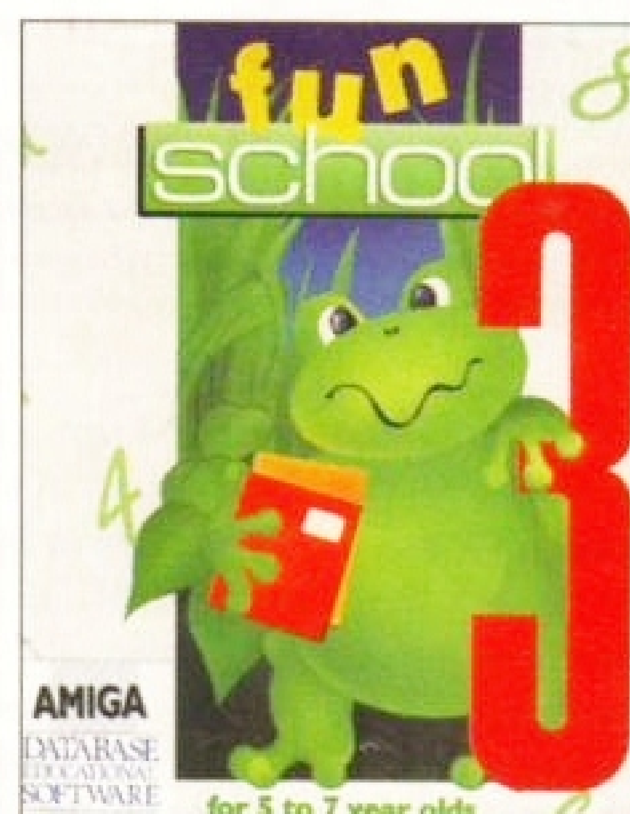
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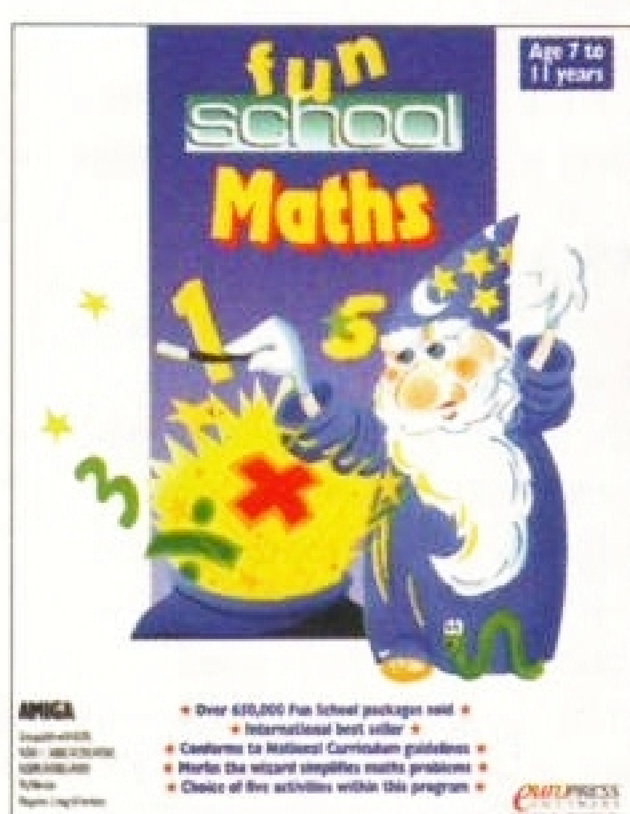
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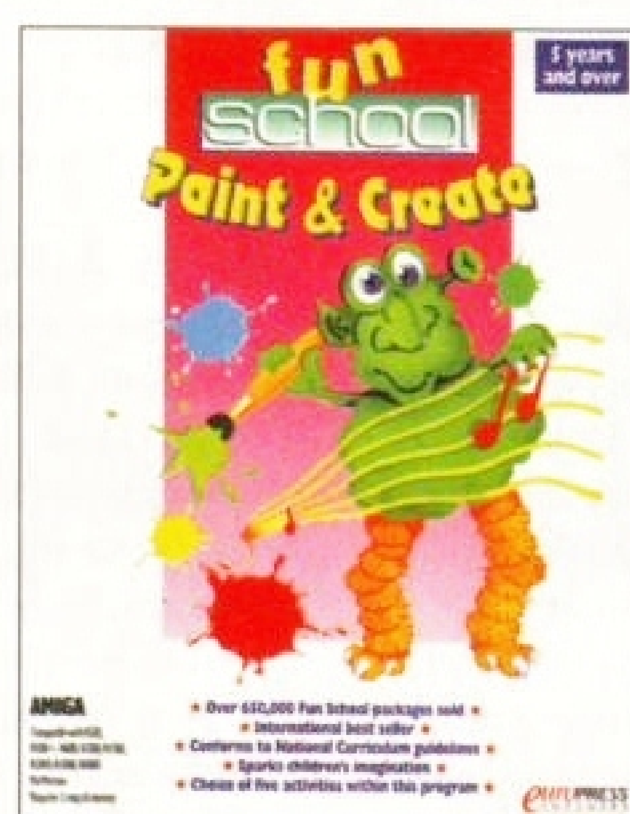
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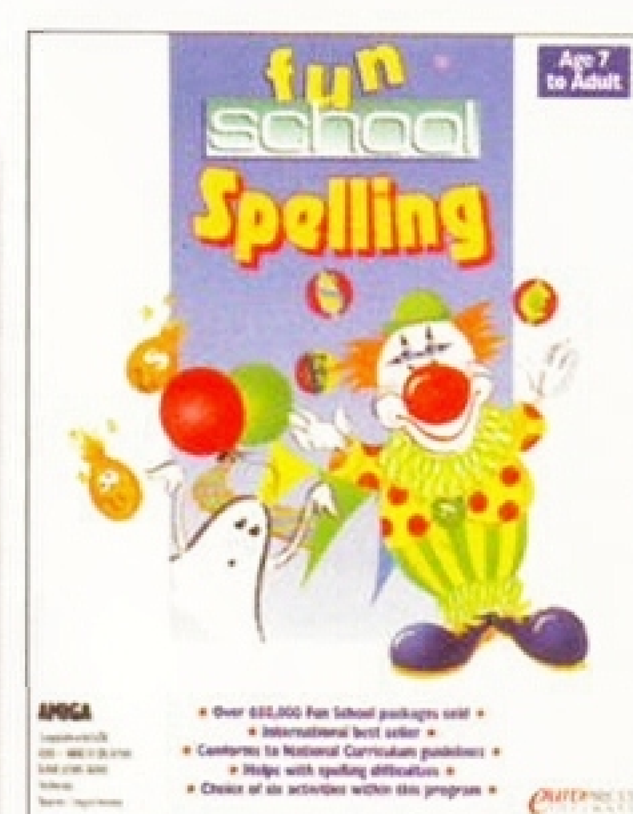
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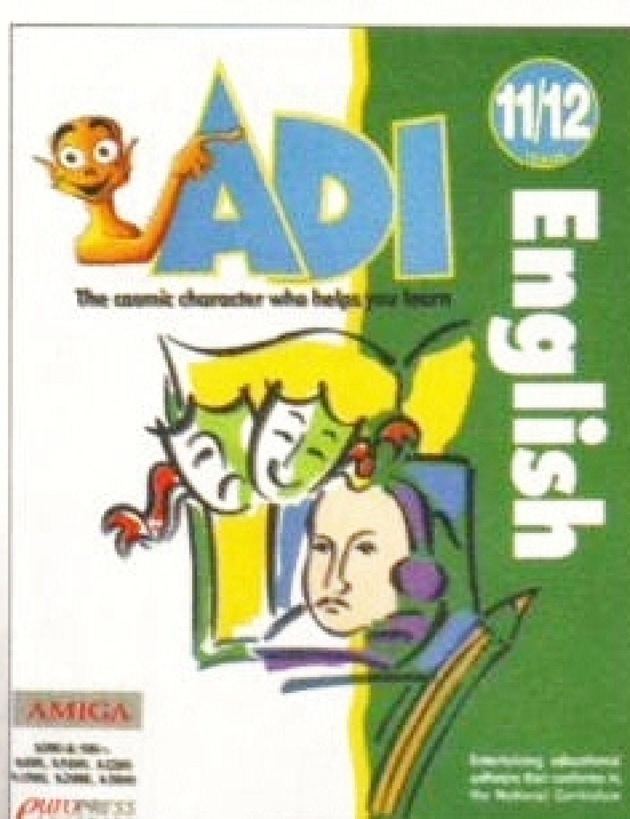
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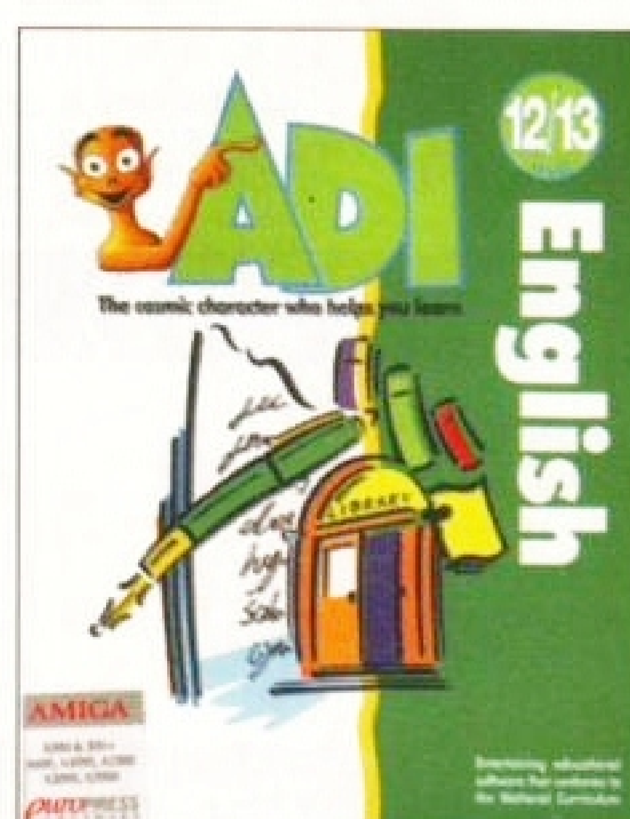
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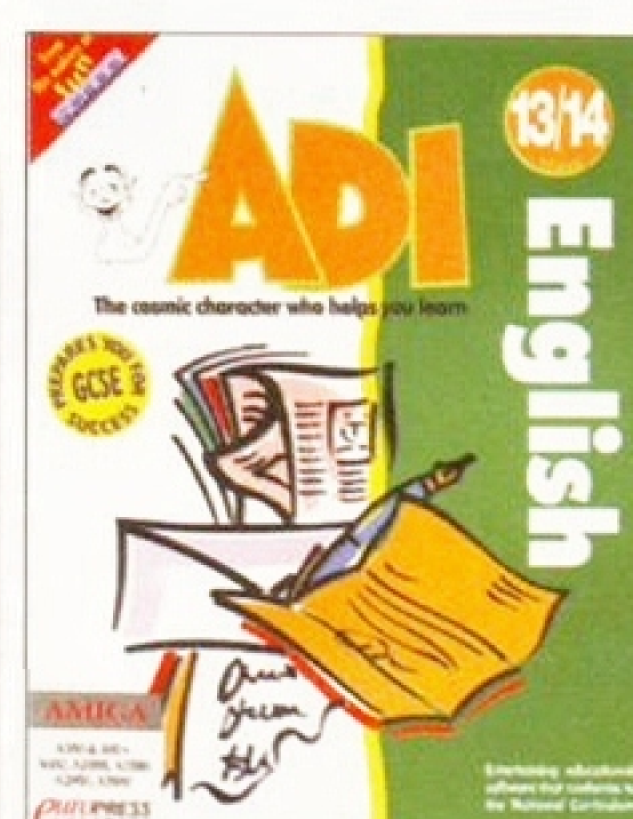
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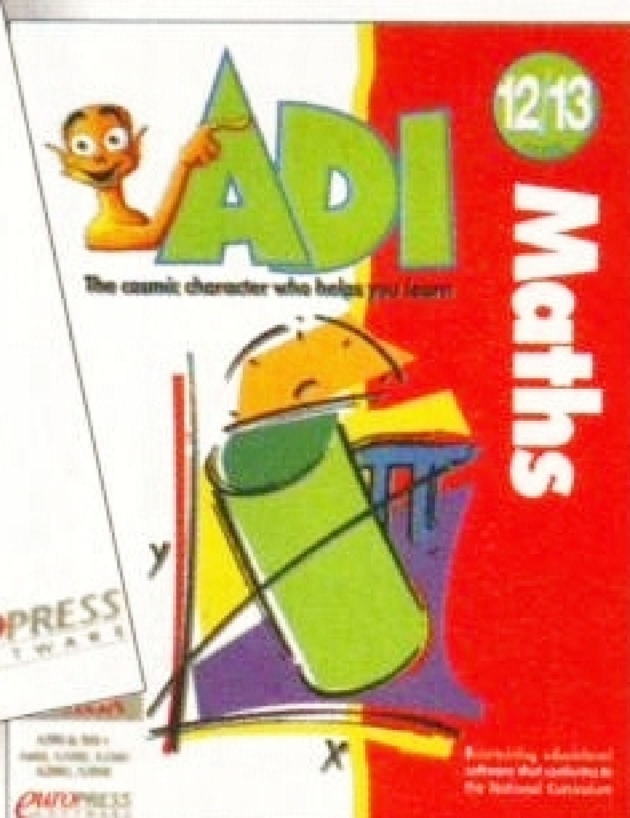
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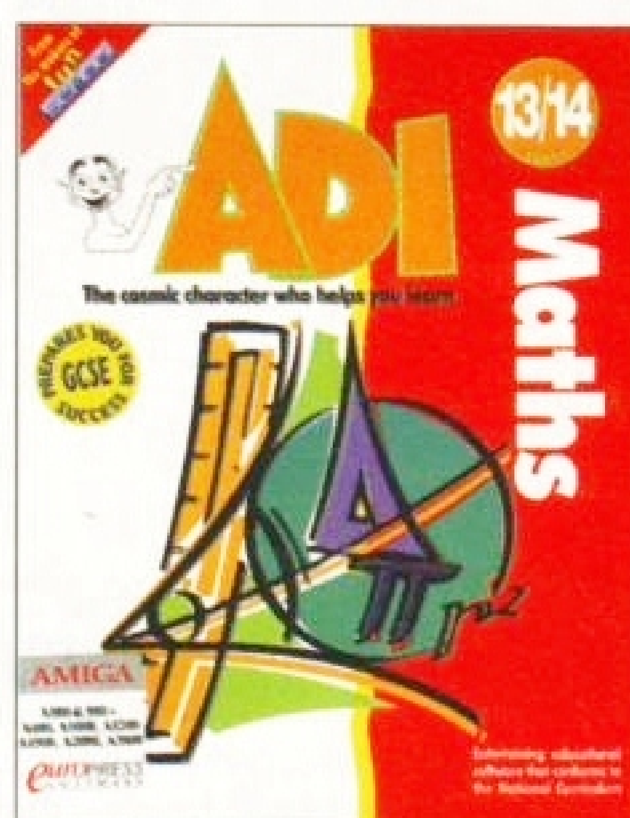
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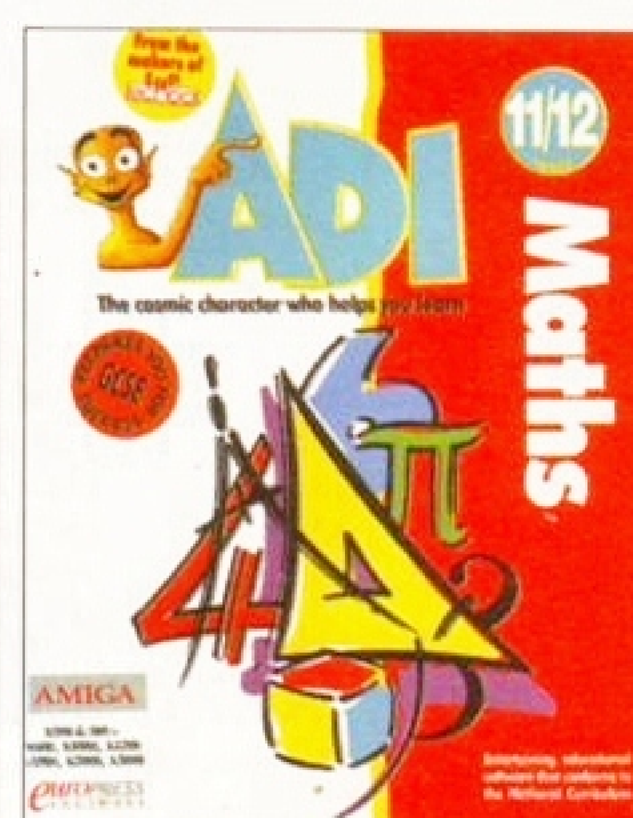
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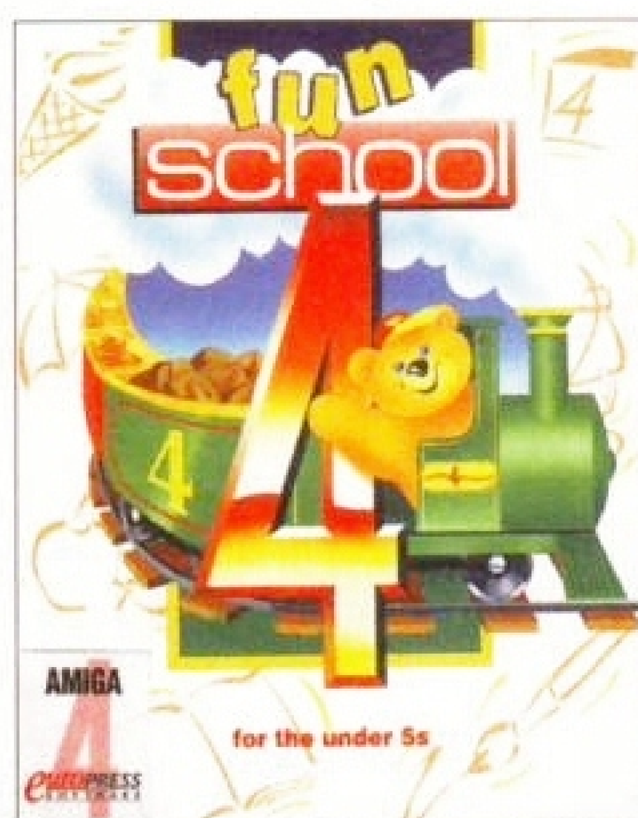


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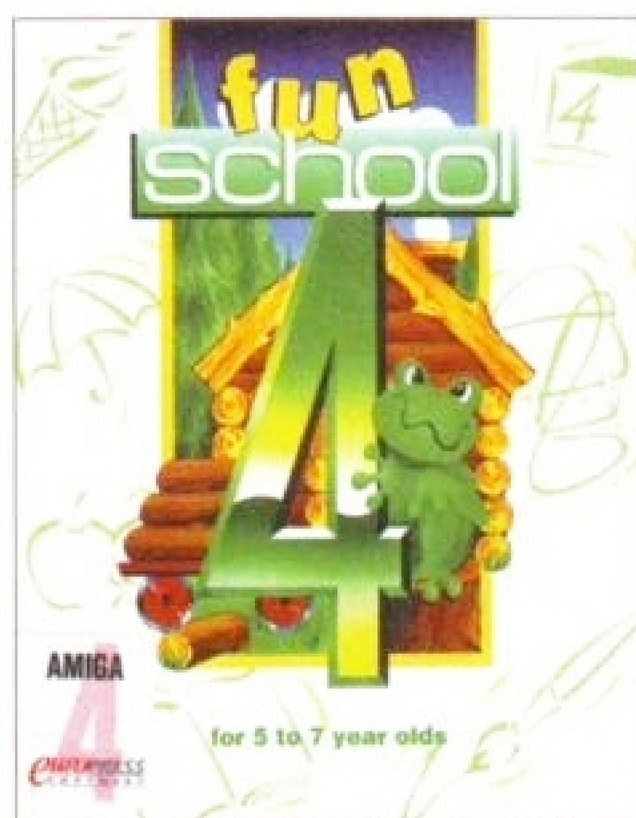


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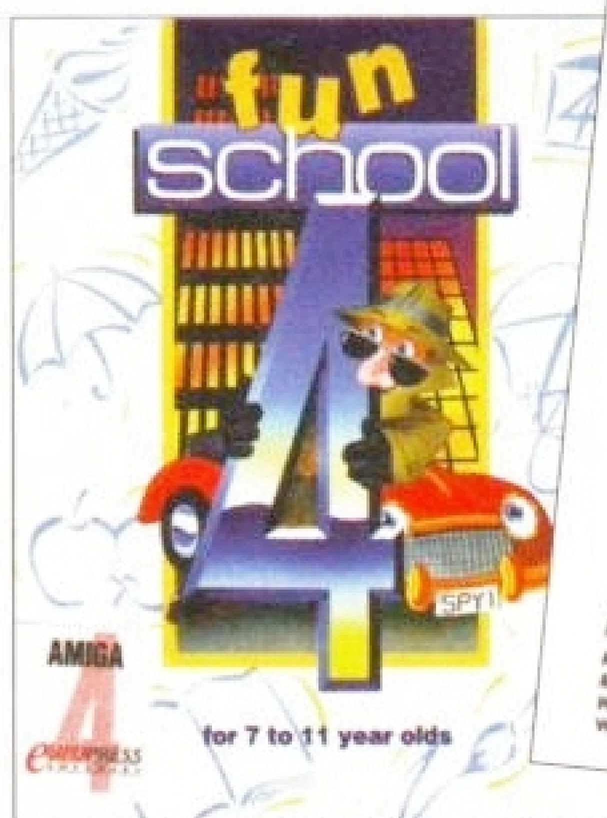
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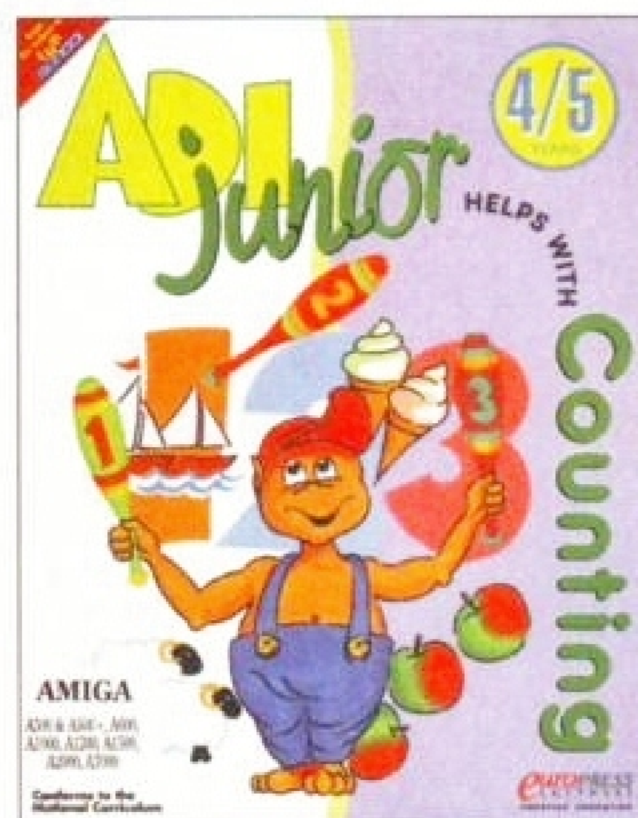
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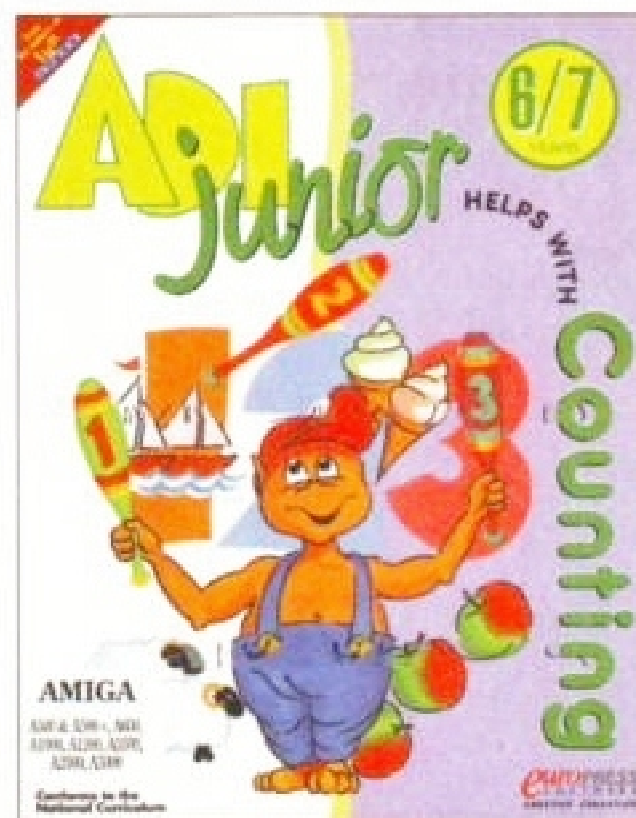
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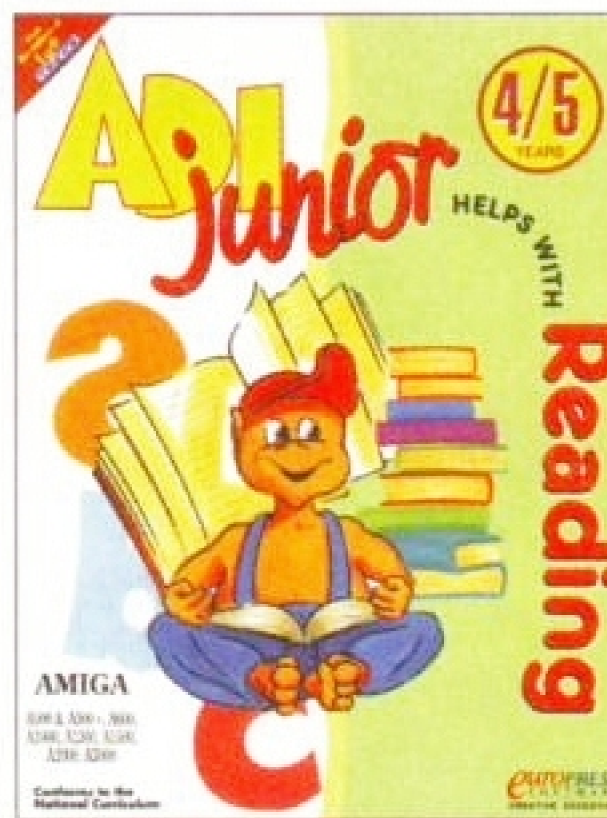
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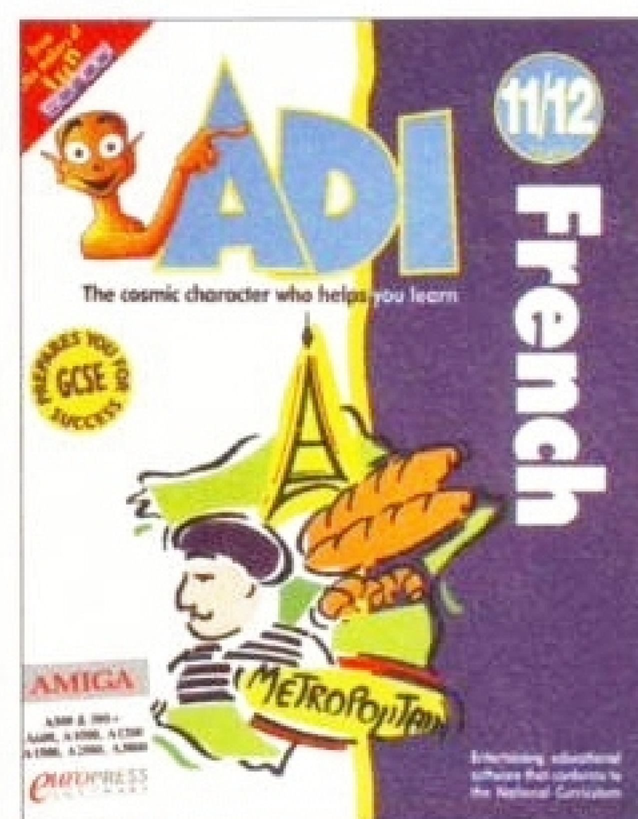
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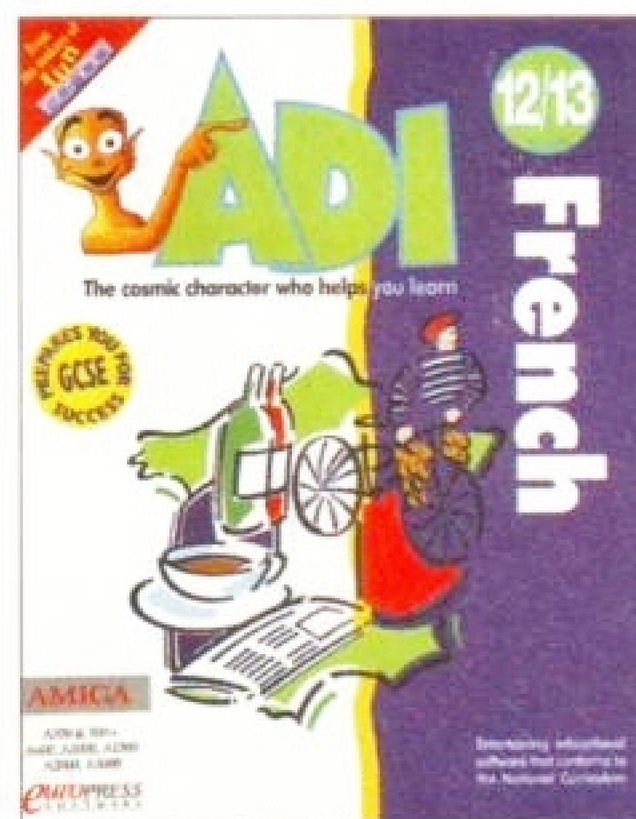
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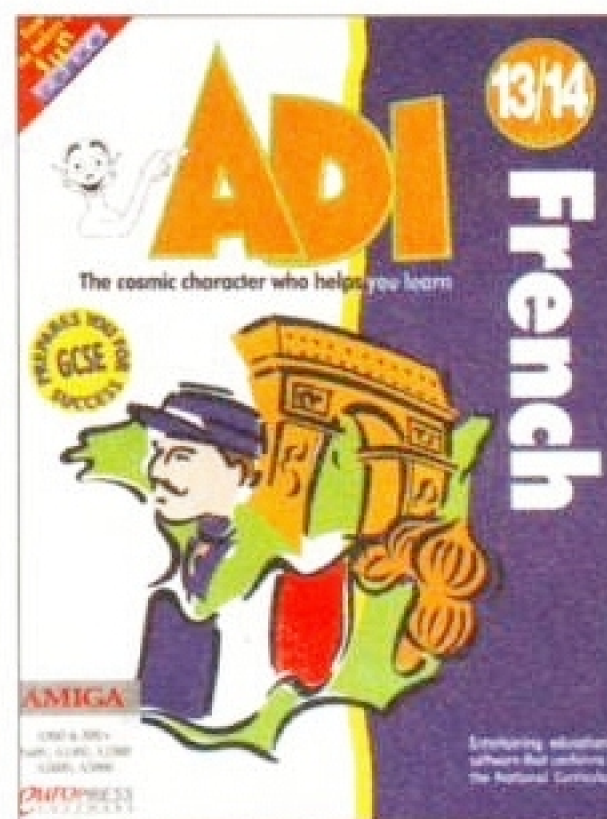
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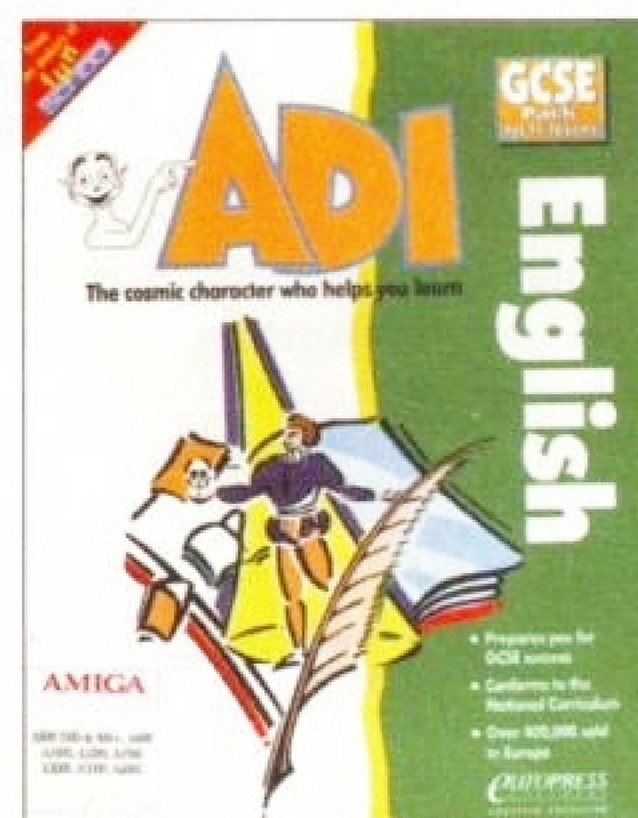
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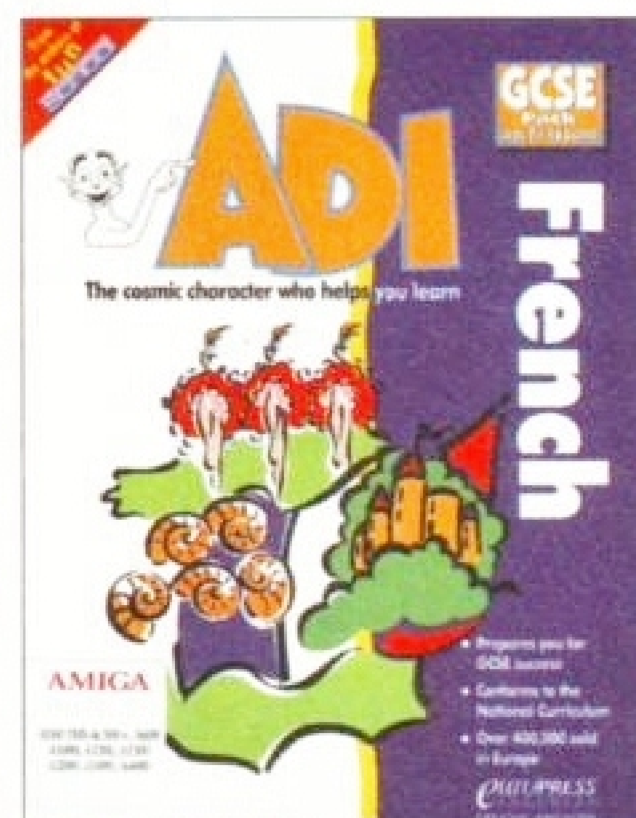
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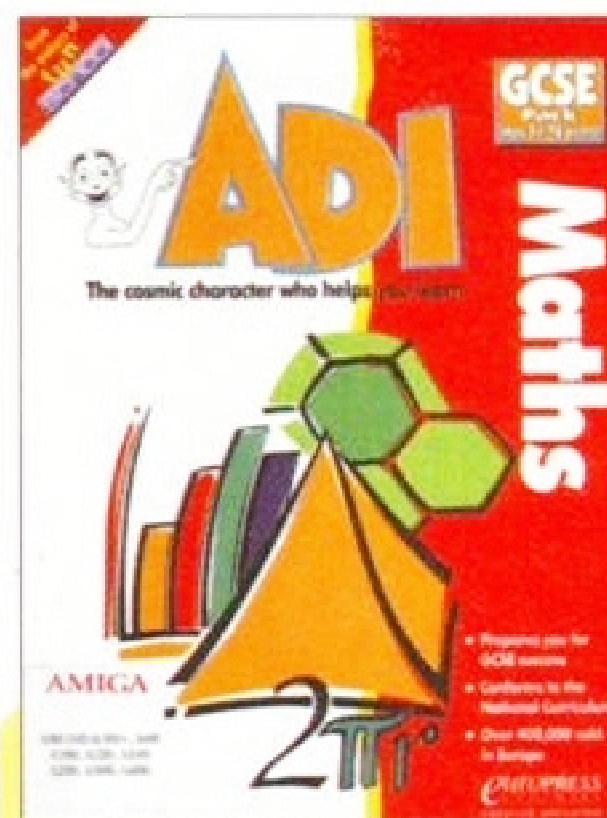
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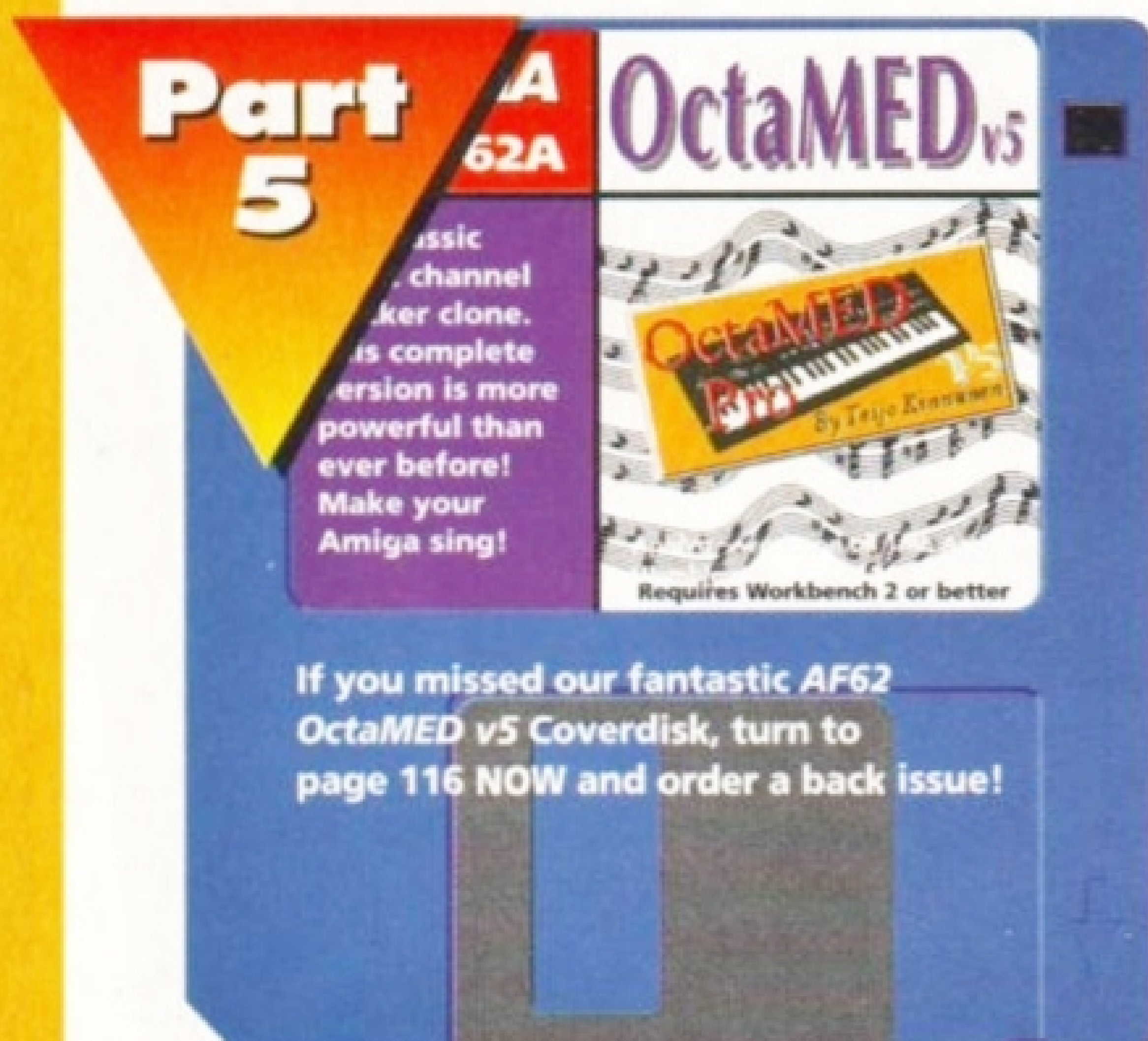
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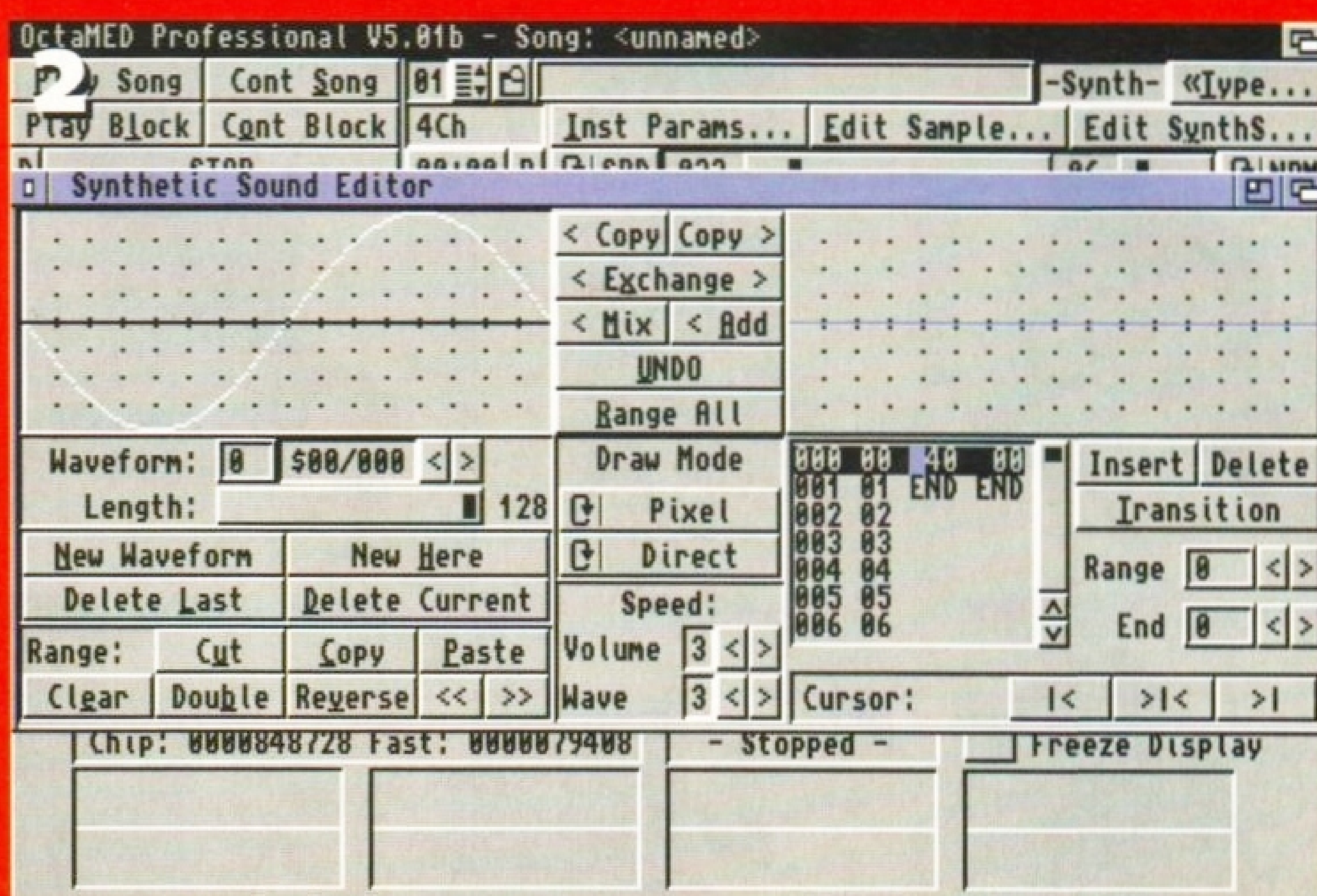
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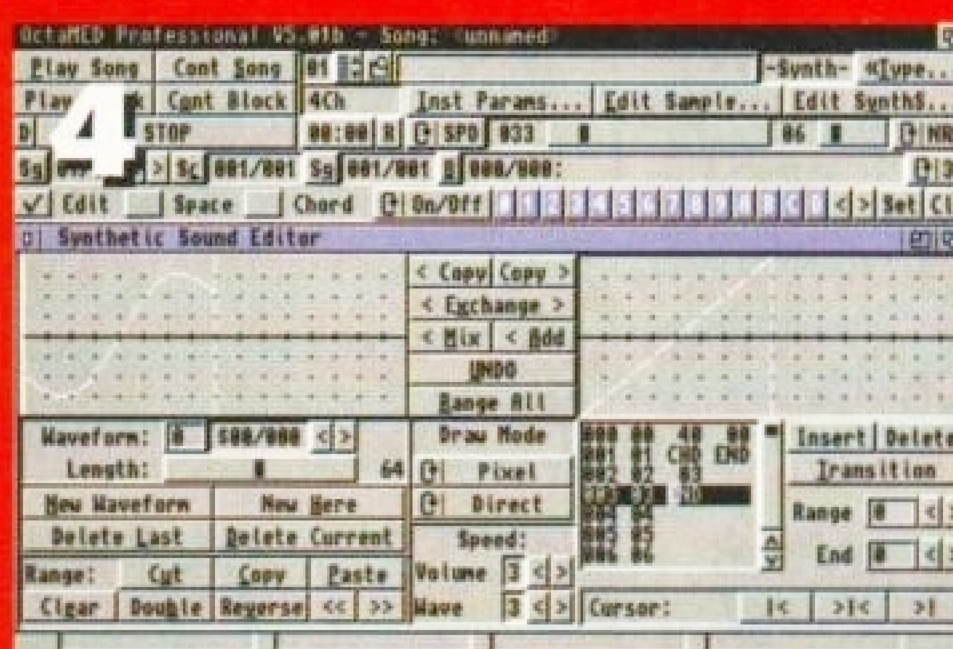
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OctaMED

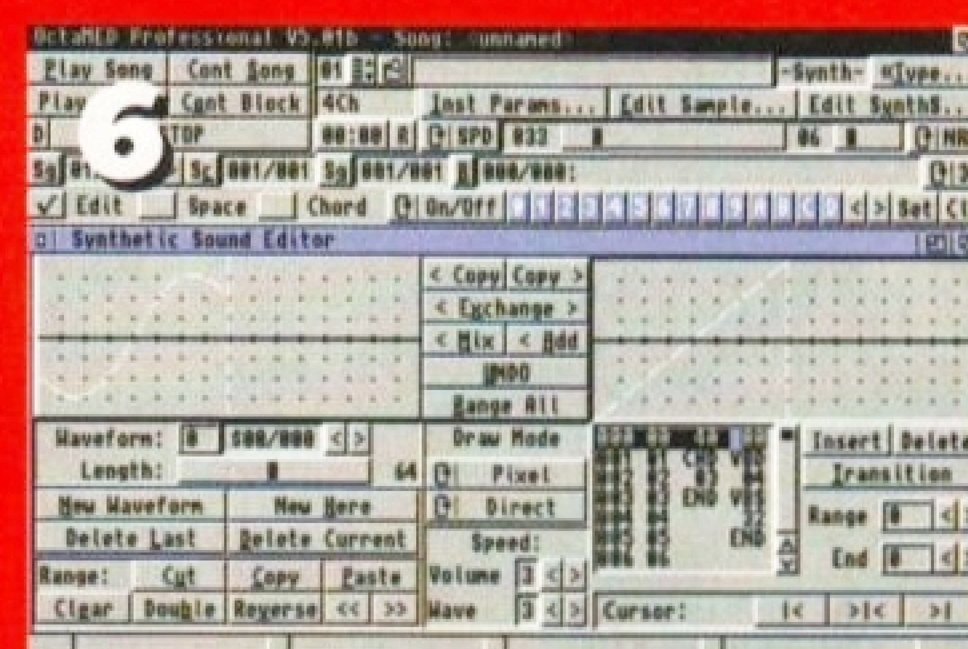
In his final *OctaMED* tutorial, Ed Wiles demystifies the complexities of the Synthsound Editor.



The synthsound editor: a PC programmer's dream and everyone else's nightmare. Until now, of course.



Just add one volume fade...



...and a pinch of vibrato. What do you think, Delilah?

Synthetic sounds (or synthsounds) are a simpler, less memory-consuming alternative to samples, and heaven for those stalwarts addicted to squelchy C64-type sounds. Sadly, though, the sheer complexity of *OctaMED*'s Synthsound Editor is more than enough to put off all but the bravest.

Well, you're going to be particularly brave this month! But first, a word about switching octaves. As you know, just over two octaves are available on the Amiga's keyboard. But samples can use three octaves, and synthsounds five. So to get at the higher octaves, use keys F1 to F5. F1 sets the lower octave (keys Z to M) to octave number 1, the middle octave (Q to U) to number 2; F2 sets the lower octave to 2, the middle octave to 3; and so on for F3 to F5.

The current octave numbers are shown in a cycle gadget (such as upper screen, fourth row, far right). Now on with the show...

STEP 1

Click Edit SynthS (top-right). Now you see why everyone avoids it. But be strong, and kick off by selecting Project menu -> New Synthsound.

So just what does everything mean? Well, the two speckled boxes (both currently empty) are the waveform displays. The left-hand box is the real waveform, the other box is used as a copy buffer and a doodling area. Waveforms are just like blocks in a song: there can be more than one of them in a synthsound, and they can be strung together in any order using a playing sequence (the square area full of numbers). We'll stick to using just the one waveform for now.

STEP 2

Click on the left-hand box, then fill it with a sine wave by selecting Presets menu -> Sine Wave. Set keyboard octaves 3 and 4 using the F3 key, then play the sound (use the space bar to stop it). Bit low? Halve the waveform's length by sliding the Length Slider from 128 to 64, then select Sine Wave again. The sound is now one octave higher.

Now, keeping the synthsound playing, select the other five presets in turn (using the Presets menu). Then reselect the sine wave.

STEP 3

Next we'll mix the sine wave with a ramp up wave. Copy the sine wave to the right-hand box using Copy > (top-middle): this sets the box's length to 64. Now click on the wave in the right-hand box, and select Presets menu ->Ramp Up. Finally, click < Mix and play the sound.

Right, time to embellish. The square area full of numbers is in fact home to a simple programming language, used to add volume changes, pitch slides, vibrato and much more to the synthsound. It sounds daunting, but fret not, it's actually pretty easy once you know the basics. As you'll notice, the program area displays four columns of numbers. The first two columns are line numbers (in decimal and hex), then we have the program instructions for volume and pitch respectively, each terminated by END.

The Volume Program's 40 instruction means set volume to 40 hex (64 decimal which is full volume). The Pitch Program's 00 means play waveform number 0 (the first waveform). A Set Volume and Play Waveform instruction must be present in order to hear the synthsound. Other instructions consist of a three-letter abbreviation, usually followed by a number (always in hex).

For example, a CHD 03 instruction in the volume program means change the volume down (fade out) at speed 3. Let's add this instruction.

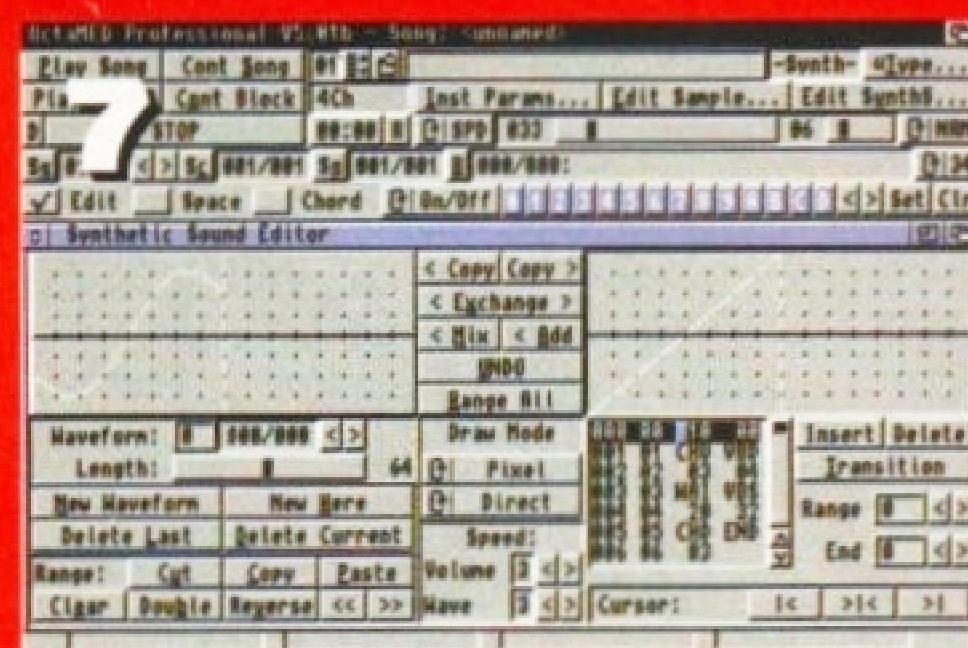
STEP 4

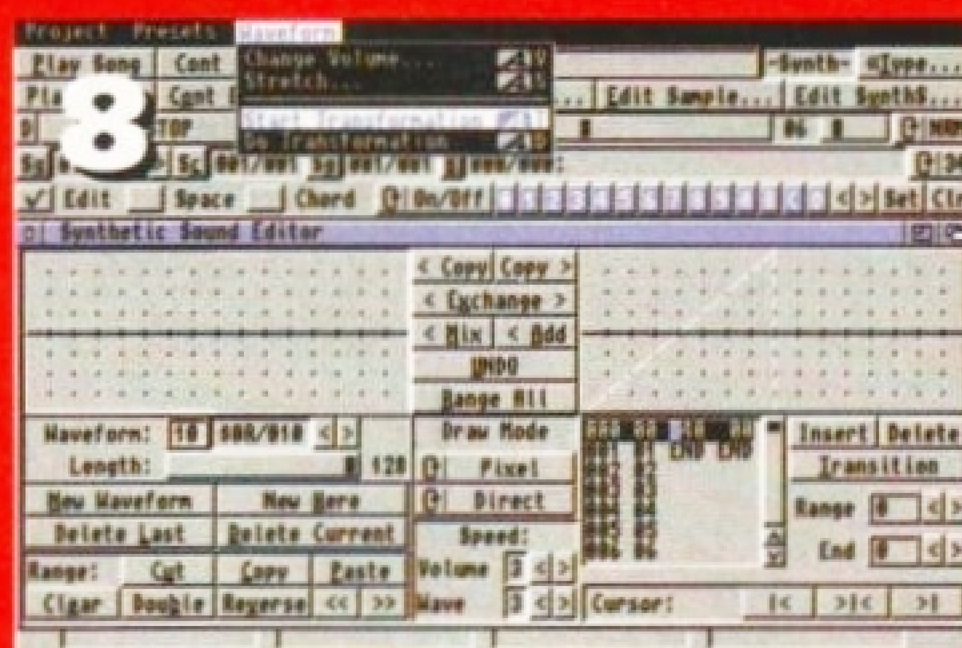
Firstly, switch on Edit Mode (you'll need to drag the window downwards to reach the main screen's Edit check box, or use Edit Mode's keyboard shortcut: the Esc key). Now click inside the window to activate it, and to insert a new entry at the end of the volume program, press <down> and Return. Press D to insert a CHD instruction, then change the 00 to 03 by pressing <right> and 3. Switch off Edit Mode, then play the sound using the keyboard. Notice the fade?

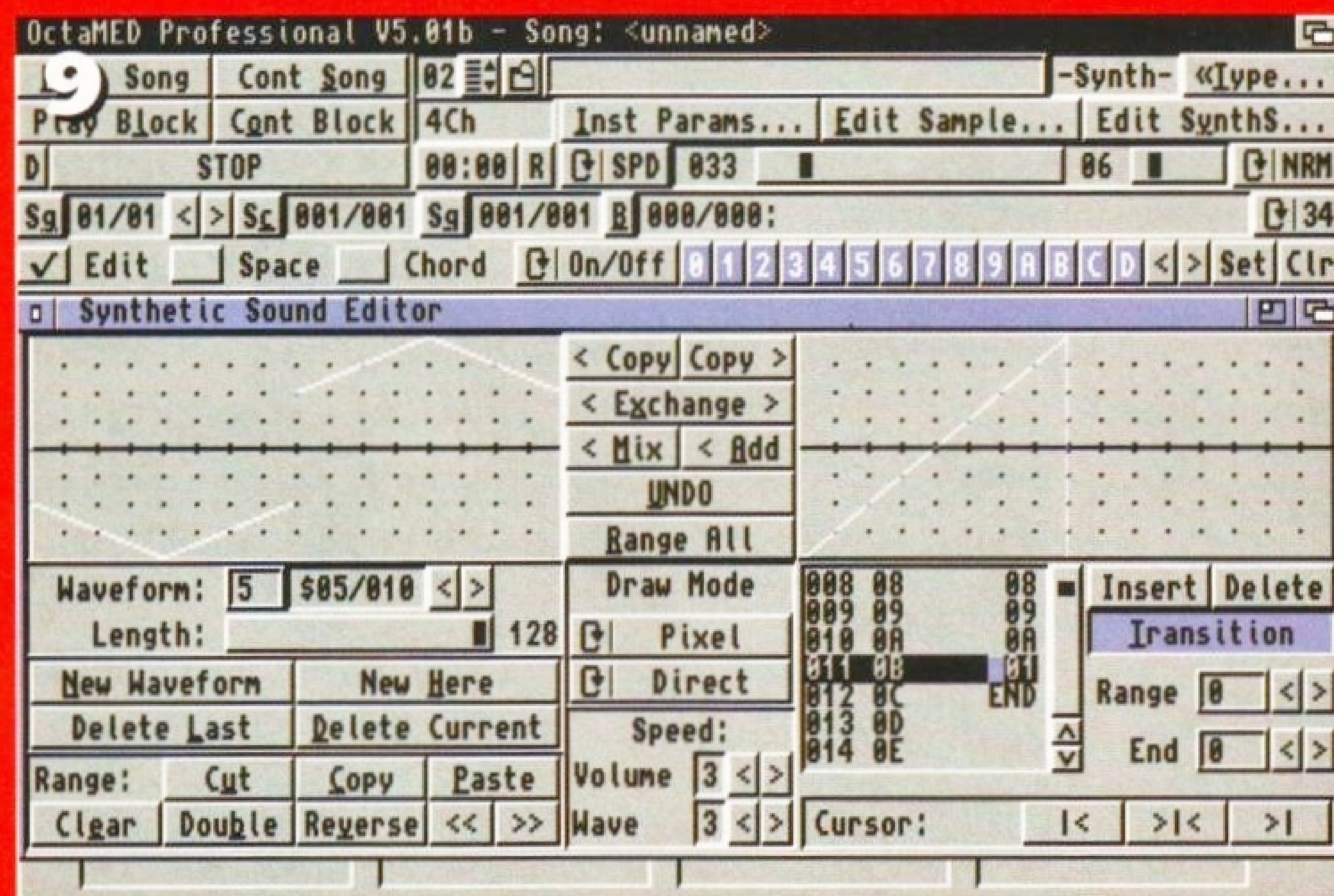
STEP 5

Next we'll add exactly the same instruction to the Pitch Program. Switch on Edit Mode, then move to the pitch program's END by pressing <up>

Tutorial


A cello? Yeah, right.


But when he ate a banana, a transformation occurred.



Transition, especially for us lazy people.

OTHER SYNTHY FEATURES

You can mark a range just like in the Sample Editor (click the Pixel cyclegadget twice before dragging the mouse), or use Range All or the three Cursor buttons. The eight range buttons (bottom-left) should be self-explanatory (remember that the copy buffer is the right-hand waveform box): use Double with Range All to shift a waveform's pitch up an octave.

In the Waveform menu, use Change Volume as in the sample editor (50 halves the waveform's volume). Stretch is weird, haven't found a use for this one guys, but bear in mind that a positive number stretches right, negative stretches left. An interesting pitch program instruction – ARP (use the A key to enter) – creates an arpeggio (a rapid change between given pitches). Specify the pitches after the ARP instruction, then end with ARE (use the E key).

For example, the instruction ARP 00 04 07 ARE creates a major arpeggio (00 0307 creates a minor). As always, experiment!

twice and <right> three times. As before, use Return D <right> 3 to add CHD 03. Now switch off Edit Mode and play the sound. So a CHD in the pitch program causes the pitch to be lowered rather than the volume.

STEP 6

Let's remove the Pitch Program's CHD 03 and add a vibrato instruction instead. Move to the CHD using <up> (twice), then press Del once. To set the vibrato depth to 4, we'll use the VBD 04 instruction. Press V, <right> and 4 to insert it. Now we'll use VBS 32 to set the vibrato speed to 32 hex (50 decimal). Press Return, Shift-V this time, and type 32. Finally, turn Edit Mode off as usual and play the sound. Sounds better already.

STEP 7

For the final touch, we'll change the volume program again. How about making the sound start softly, gradually louden to full volume, wait a moment, then fade away? This introduces the CHU (change up) and WAI (wait) instructions. Turn on Edit Mode, then use the <up>, <left> and 1 keys to change the 40 at the start of the volume program to 10. This makes the sound start at quarter-volume.

Now move the cursor to the CHD (make sure the cursor is over the C), and press Return U <right> 3 to add CHU 03. Next, add a WAI 20 instruction using Return W 2. Now switch edit mode off and play the sound with your eyes closed... a violin? Cello? Try changing any of the numbers in the program (except the 00) to different values, and see what happens.

Now, we'll start a new synthsound. This one uses 11 different waveforms instead of one: a triangular wave in waveform number 0 slowly changes into a pulse wave by number 10. You'll see what I mean.

STEP 8

Select instrument 02 and choose Project menu -> New Synthsound. Click on the left-hand waveform box and select a triangular wave (Presets menu). Now keep clicking New Waveform (on the left) until the current waveform becomes number 10. In waveform 10, select a pulse wave.

Now the magic. Select Waveform menu -> Start Transformation to mark the start of the change at waveform 10. Now use the < button just below the left-hand box to return to waveform 0. Finally, select Waveform menu -> Do Transformation. Nothing appears to have happened, but use the > button to display the other waveforms and notice that (hopefully) the triangular wave smoothly becomes the pulse wave.

Our lovely new waveforms won't play yet, though: the pitch program only contains a Play Waveform 0 instruction. We need to tell *OctaMED* to play waveforms 1 to 10 too, so we need to enter numbers 01 to 0A (hex) into the Pitch Program. How boring.

But wait! There's an easier way.

STEP 9

Move to the Pitch Program's END (remember to turn on Edit Mode), press Return, and change the new number 00 to 0A. Move back up to the 0A, and click Transition (on the right). Use <down> to confirm that all the intervening numbers have been added. Now we'll create another transition from 0A to 01. Move to the END, and add a number 01 (use Return). Move up to the 01 and click Transition again. Finally we need to jump back to line 00 at the end of the program, causing a repeat. So move the cursor over the E in END, press Return and J. Switch off Edit Mode and play the sound. Spooky...

Try changing how quickly the pitch program is executed using the Wave arrows (bottom-middle), and use Volume for the volume program.

STEP 10

Finally, close the window and save the synthsounds if you wish, use Instrmenu -> Save Instrument, either format is fine since they're saved as neither.

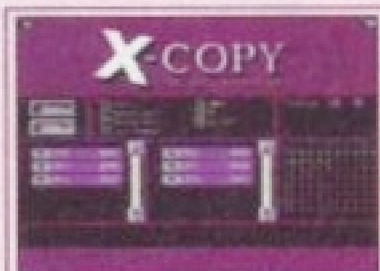
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Richard Bannister runs The Official Med Users Group, a group dedicated to supporting users of *OctaMED*. It produces a bi-monthly disk magazine called *TI*. Write to him at 6 Glevum Road, Swindon SN3 4AF. Kevan Craft's your man for MIDI advice. He can be reached at 12 Moult Road, Runcorn WA7 2BH. And if you're really desperate, there's me! 9 Kirkland Wynd, Dumfries DG1 4ES (or phone 01387 65776).

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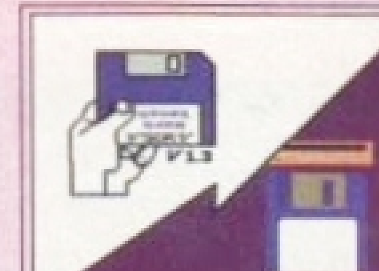


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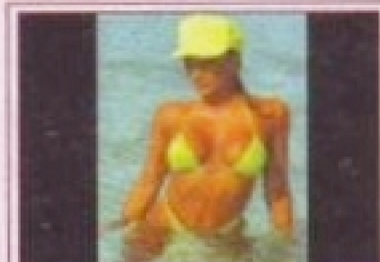


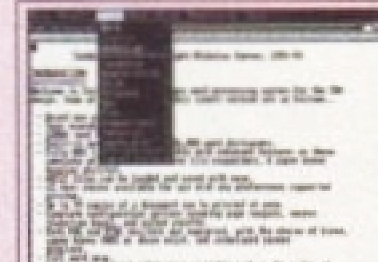
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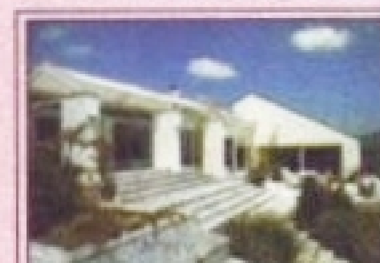

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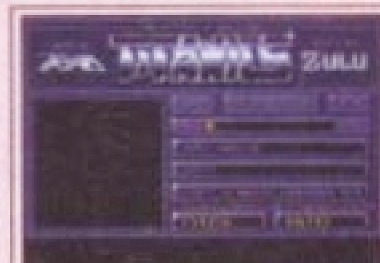


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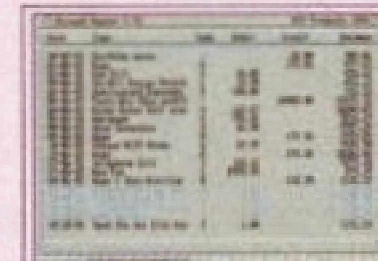

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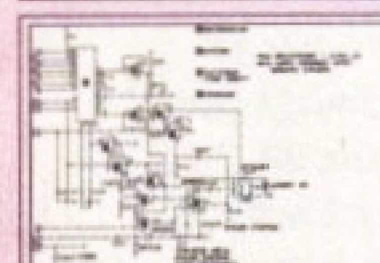

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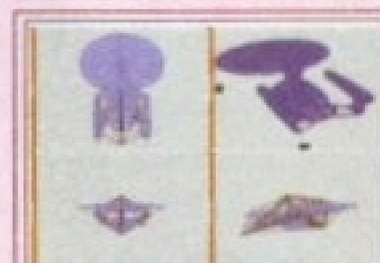


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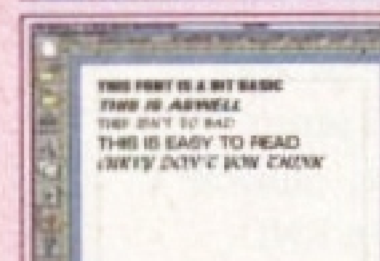

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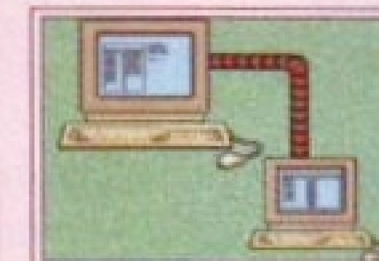
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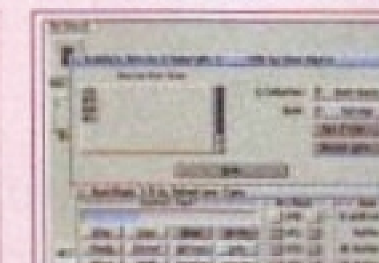

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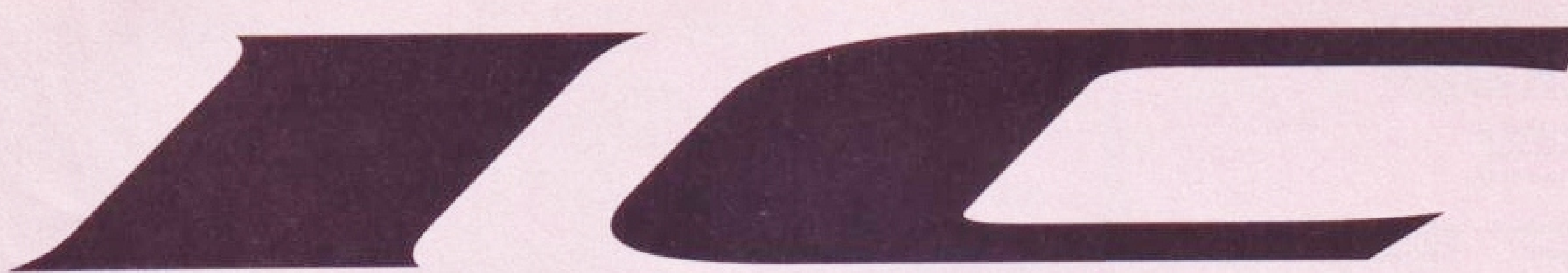
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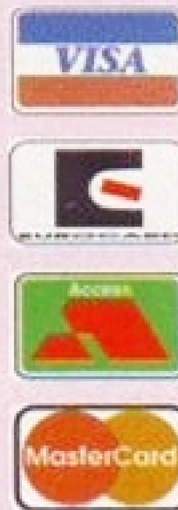
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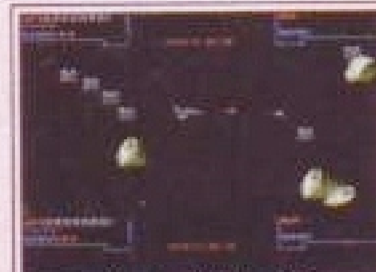
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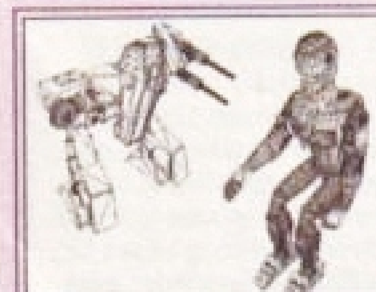




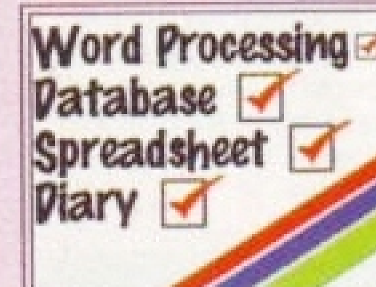
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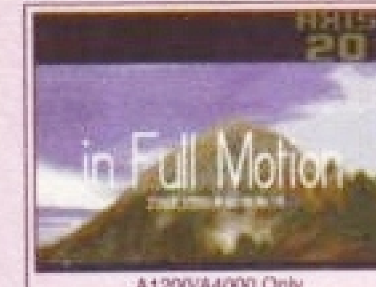

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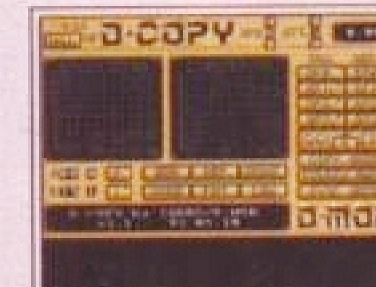


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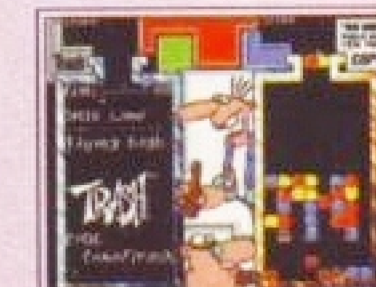
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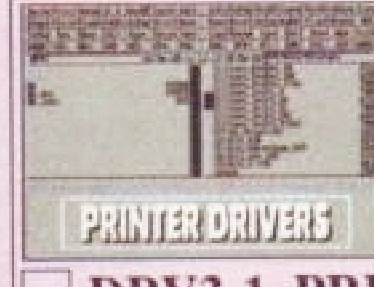

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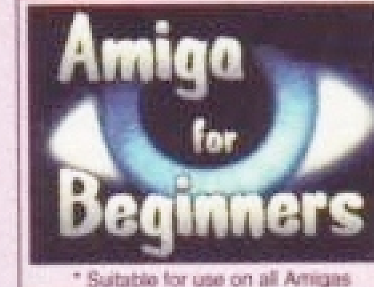

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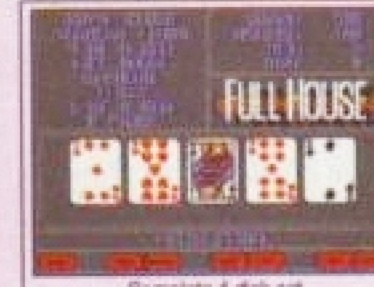
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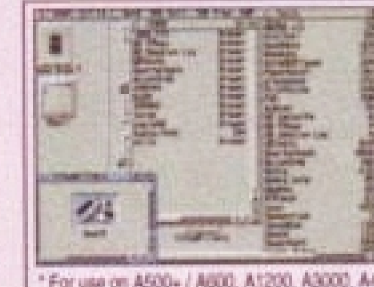
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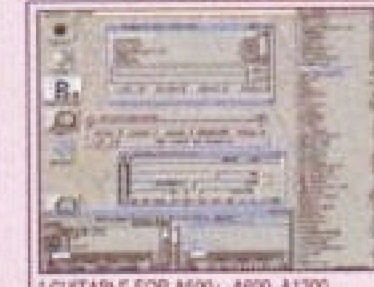


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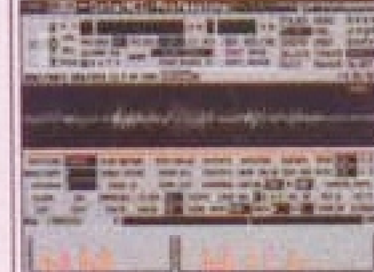
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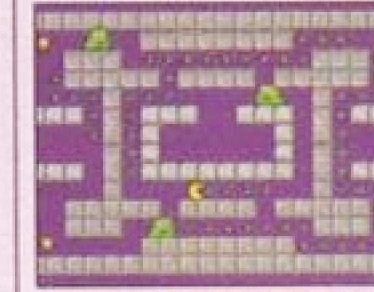

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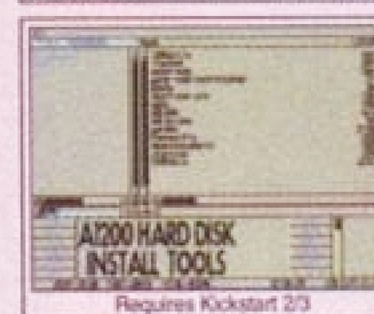

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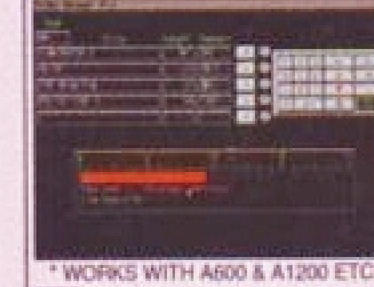

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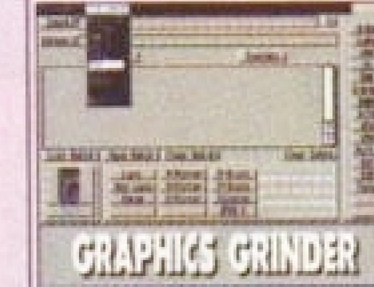


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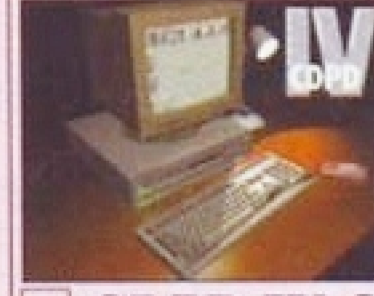
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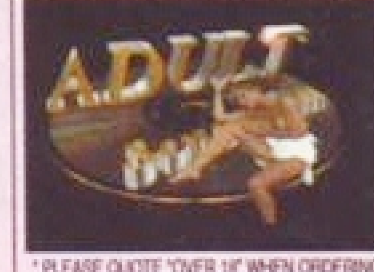
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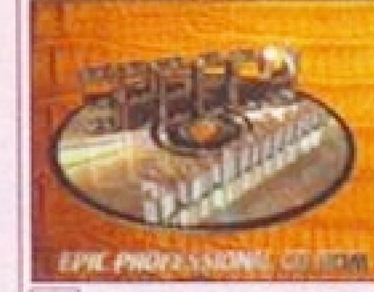
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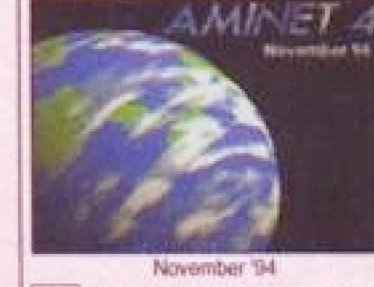


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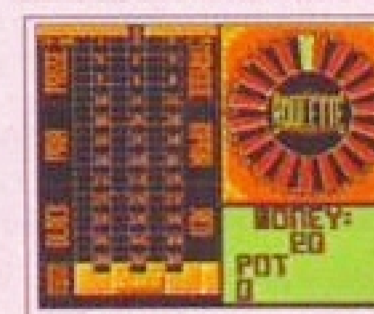


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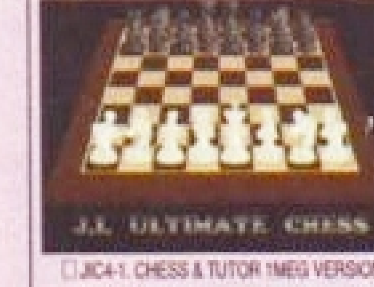


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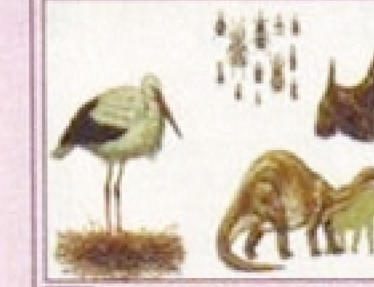

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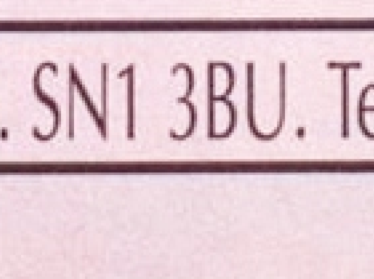

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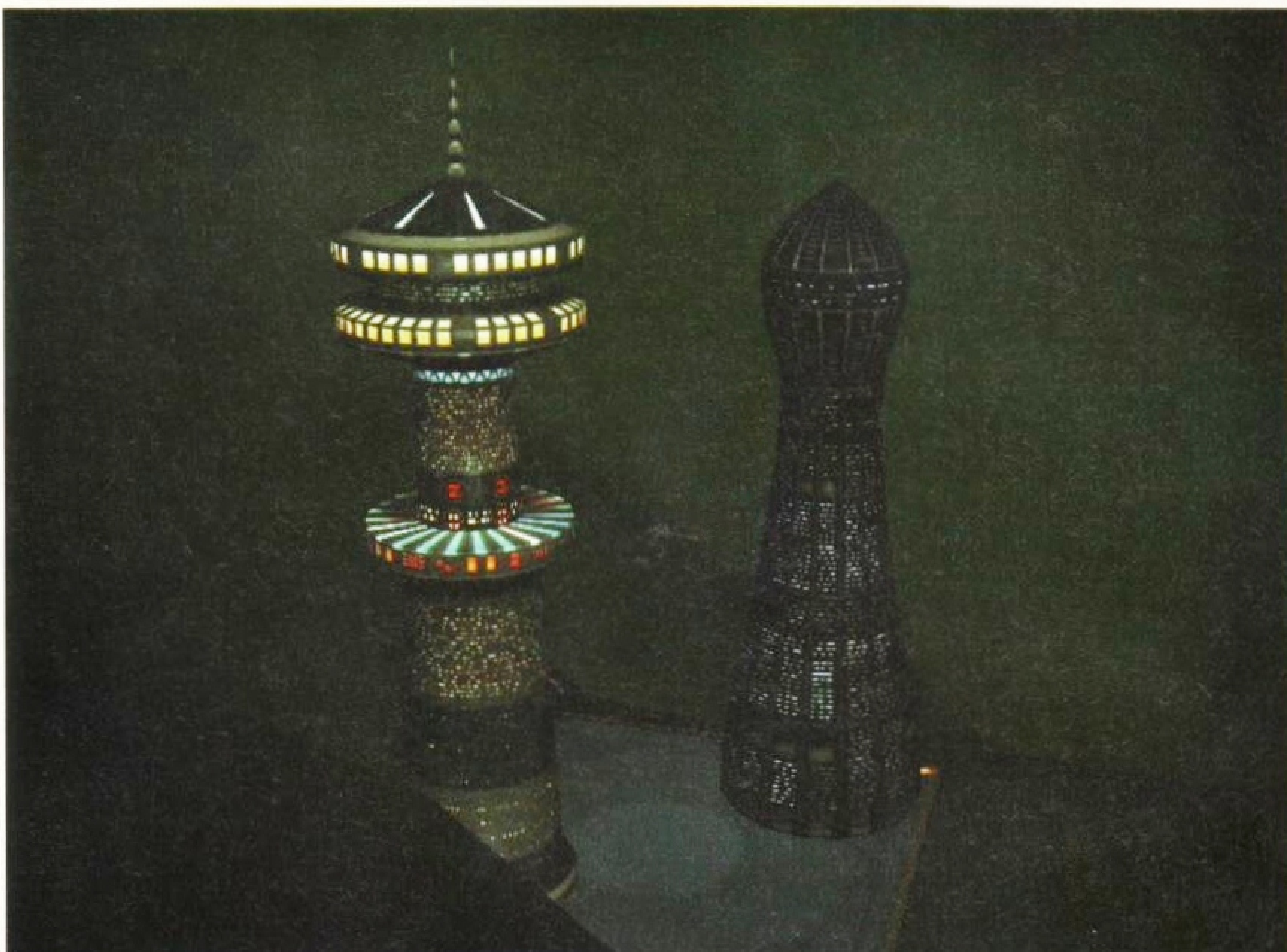
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Erik Flom's gorgeous *Lightwave* object is called Earth 4000.


These impressive futuristic towers are an asset to any 3D graphics collection.

Every 3D user wants new models or textures for their collection. But, unless you are a member of the 24Bit Club, where can you find the vast amount of 3D material available? Answer, an Amiga 3D Bulletin Board.

The UK has a good number of 3D BBSs where *Imagine* and *Lightwave* users can download new material. We recommend **Activa International: 0181 986 5964, The Black Hole: 0121 421 4835** and **Mostly Harmless: 01705 614 824**.

These boards operate a flexible upload/download ratio system, which means to get access to the items featured on this page, you might have to upload something if you do not already have an account with them. If you do not have anything to upload, all the BBSs offer unlimited download access for a small fee.

Rich people can contact the following international BBSs whose main support is for *Lightwave 3D*: **Grafix Attack: 0103 110 474 1062; Lightwaved 3D: 0101 510 228 0886; Obstacle Illusion: 0101 616 791 2109; Studio Amiga: 0101 817-557-2111; Media Zone: 0101 305 821 0455**

NEW ARRIVALS

Looking for a good Earthscene object for *Lightwave*? Erik Flom's impressive Earth 4000 was selected by Newtek for inclusion as a Toaster 4000 switcher effect and includes an installation script with instructions if you want to use the object commercially. (One disk by post, Elf4000.LHA by modem).

James Hasting-Trew has released a superb collection of organic trees for *Imagine* and *Lightwave*. This set has high and low resolution versions of four different trees. A combination of colour and transparency mapping and simple object framework for these true-colour image maps produce highly detailed foliage. Commercial use of these objects should be negotiated with the author. (Six disks by post, Treekit.LHA by modem.)

More brilliant 3D models and textures from the 24Bit Club. Contact them on 0141 946 2191. (Address below.)


This lovely organic tree is just one of the four different species available in a collection from the 24Bit Club.

Club member, Alex Kewin has released a disk called *Lightwave Towers*. It contains two objects and a complete set of Bump, Colour, Luminosity and Specular maps, to give you amazing looking futuristic towers. (One disk by post, Towers.LHA by modem.)

Carmen Rizzolo is one of the most prolific supporters of *Imagine* and *OpalVision* and his latest release, *Part And Particles For OpalPaint*, has features such as circular, hexagonal, septagonal, octagonal, nonagonal or decagonal lens flares enabling you to create your own lenses. Particles can emanate from a dynamic (movable) co-ordinate in your animation, or from any side of the screen such as rain falling from the top of the screen. Particles can have motion blur, they can wiggle horizontally and/or vertically and cast a shadow.

Part And Particle costs $99 (approx £62), and can be ordered from Carmen on 0101 619 573 0285, or contact him via Internet at: CarmenR@cup.portal.com. He accepts credit cards. A sample animation of *Part And Particle* can be downloaded as: Particle.LHA, or send two disks plus return postage to the Club address.

Users of DPS' PAR will be pleased that we now have version 2.30 and a great utility called *ParPro* for use with your board and *ADPro*. *ParPro* takes existing PAR anims, processes them using *ADPro*'s effects and saves them back to the PAR drive. (On one disk by post, Parpro.LHA by modem.).

CONTACTS

Send all disks to: The 24Bit Club, 6 Skirsa Square, Glasgow G23 5DW. Tel: 0141 946 2191. Please note, we will not be held responsible for any media lost in the post.

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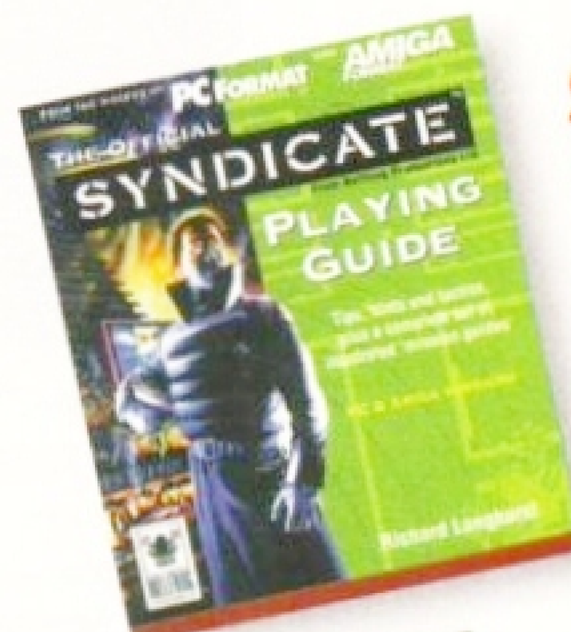
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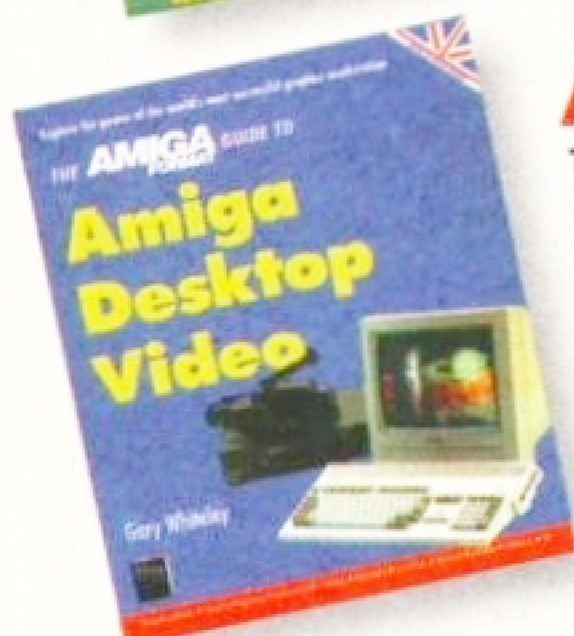
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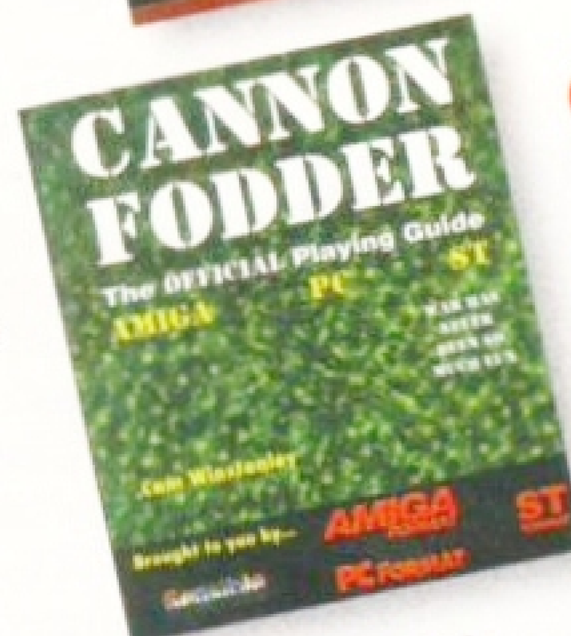
SYNDICATE PLAYING GUIDE

Find out how it's done with this *Syndicate Playing Guide*. You'll find full walk-through instructions and grabs of the key moments for all 50 missions of *Syndicate*. Now there's no excuse for losing!



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The Amiga is the world's premier low-cost graphics workstation. But its basic power, built-in expandability and ever-widening range of quality software and add-ons mean it's capable of highly professional results. All it takes is the know-how... and all the know-how is right here!



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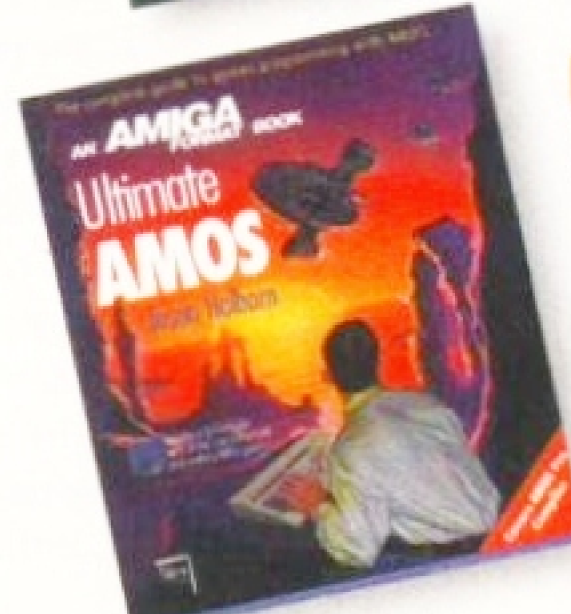
Don't get killed! Find out how to beat the game with this new book. Inside its pages you'll find all the hints and tips that you'll need to survive and conquer in the *Cannon Fodder* war zone.



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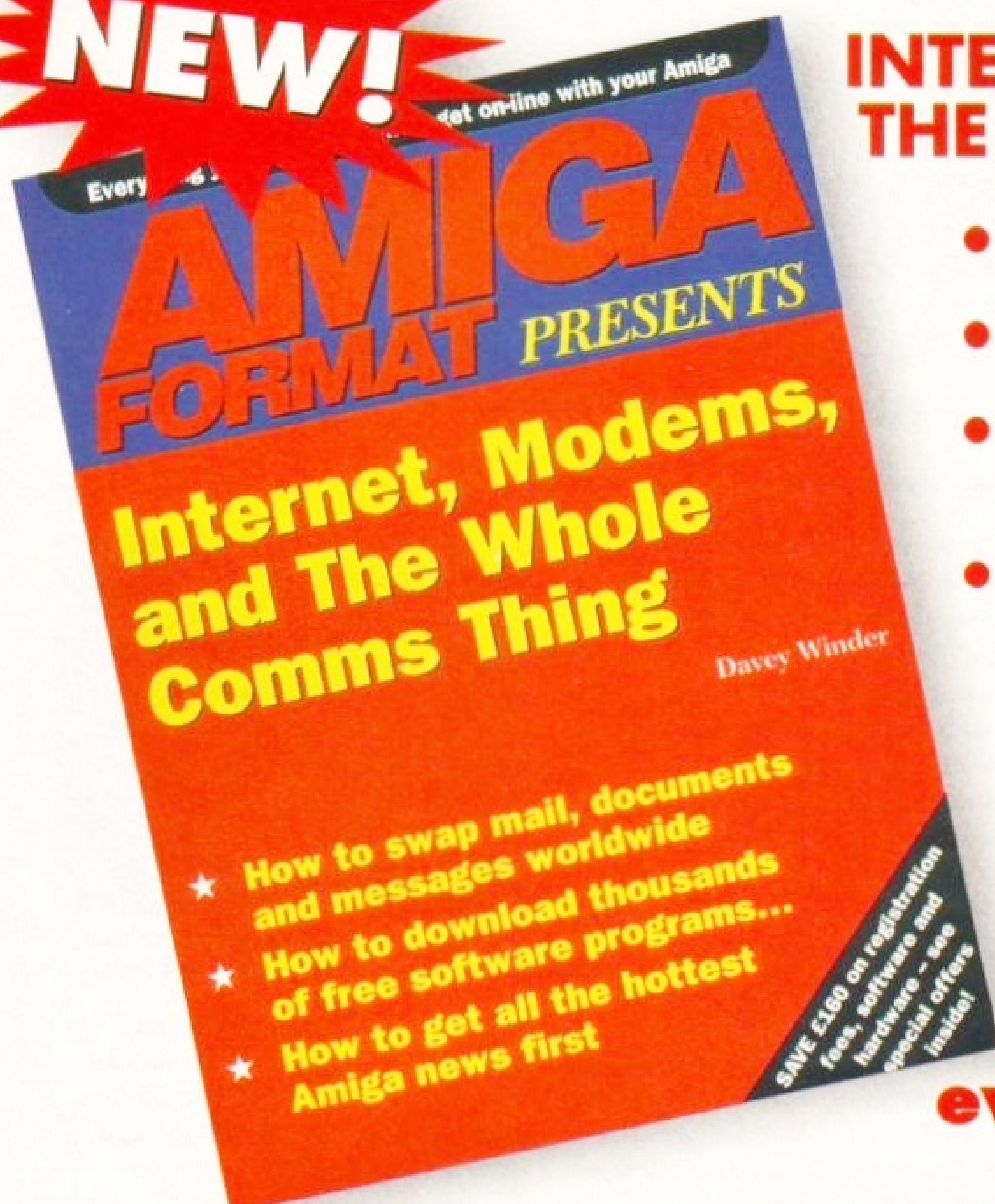
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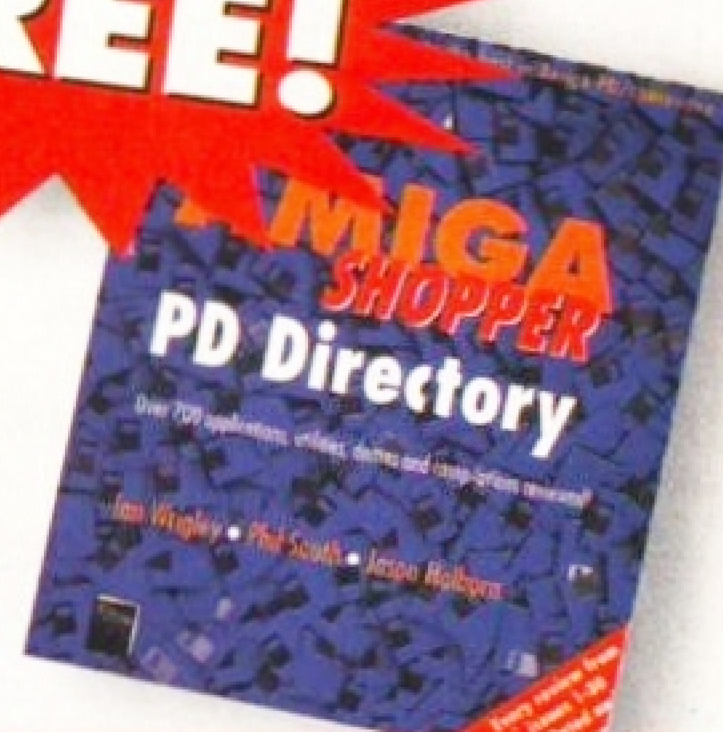
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Steve Jarratt – Editor

Mailbag

Send your letters to: Letters To The Editor, *Amiga Format*, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath, Avon BA1 2BW.

RISCY BUSINESS

I noticed you drooling over the PowerMac (*AF63*) and was interested in particular by the comment: 'Just think what a RISC-based Amiga will be capable of'.

The fact is that the birth of a RISC-based Amiga will mean the death of everything we like about the Amiga: there will be no more one-disk operating systems; games on floppies will be next to impossible to find and there will be no compatibility with existing Amiga software. Everything will have to be piped through a software translator, or be re-compiled for the RISC chip – take a hard look at how few Mac or PC programs have been re-compiled for that wonderful PowerPC RISC processor (in a market a lot bigger than the Amiga's).

Oddly enough, you can get RISC performance out of an Amiga just by using a Motorola 68060 (a hybrid chip which converts 68K CISC-code on-the-fly to feed its internal RISC engine), with no change to our favourite operating system or most application software; and this would allow R&D resources to remain focused on the AAA chipset, where they belong.

Keep in mind that the 68060 was designed for Apple to improve the Mac's computing performance without a new operating system, and has since been steered toward embedded applications, where tiny operating systems are a big advantage. Because these embedded applications demand faster, more agile processors to be programmed by self-admitted 68K nuts, Motorola will continue to develop exactly the sort of CPUs the Amiga needs, no matter where the PC world takes their particular lunacy.

Think about it: If your next Amiga is a RISC-based machine, you'll be looking at 8Mb of RAM just for system requirements. And do you really want to have to install Workbench 4.0 from a CD-ROM?

Mr Challeron, London


Is a RISC-based A4000 really the way forward for the Amiga?

I appreciate what you're saying, but if progress is to continue, you have to start somewhere. You are almost completely technically accurate, but the future of high-end applications on the Amiga does not lie in CISC technology any more. Motorola have abandoned the 68k series, primarily because for the increase in production and design technology, they are not achieving a great deal more in performance. RISC chips are simpler to design, cheaper to manufacture and can result in greater performance. The downside of RISC is an increased memory overhead and more complex system software. I would be surprised if a 68060 accelerator for the Amiga did not appear in the next few months.

But to design a new machine (which will be a year in the making) around a chip set that is all but discontinued would be a little foolish. Also, I see no reason why the new machine shouldn't be a hybrid, including a 68020 (which are dirt cheap) for a fall-back Amiga-native mode. The first RISC machines will be in the high-end league, so games compatibility is not immediately important. What could be very important is the ability to run software designed for RISC-based Macs and PCs.

Hopefully, in a couple of years' time, 8Mb of RAM will not be terribly expensive. I remember a 16k RAM Pack for a ZX-80 costing nearly £100 and that was only a little over 10 years ago. You should be pleased at the prospect of a base machine with 16Mb of RAM.

I'm afraid progress is not always painless and not always worthwhile, but it happens anyway.

WHAT'S MY BEST MOVE?

Soon our family is going to move house. I don't want to, so my parents said they will make it up to me by buying me an A1200. I'm writing to ask you what to buy (I want to use CD technology and FMV). Should I get an A1200 with a 127Mb hard drive and a Zappo or Commodore CD drive, or a CD^{32} with an SX-1 expansion module, a 120Mb hard drive and a keyboard?



The SX-1 is an excellent option for CD^{32} owners who want an A1200 and FMV.

Bearing in mind that I do a lot of creative work (music, graphics and *AMOS* programming) as well as playing games, is there any way anybody will conjure up an FMV-compatible A1200 add-on, or will the A1800 have this option (or built-in FMV compatibility)? Please help an Amiga-crazed A500 owner longing for some speed to help me write you letters in *PageSetter 2*.

Andrew Bruce, Chester, Cheshire

It depends on how much you want the FMV compatibility. I don't think you're going to see an FMV-compatible A1200 for some time – so the CD^{32}/SX-1 solution is your only answer.

But! I do think you're over estimating the worth of FMV. All it does is show pictures, and you can already do that from CD to a reasonable quality

TO THE POINT...

I know the Zappo CD drive can run most CD^{32} software and Amiga CD-ROM programs but how can I save CD^{32} games?

Neville Hearn, West Sussex

The Zappo has a built-in library called non-volatile *which can be used to re-route data destined for the flashRAM to any file on a floppy disk.*

Could you mention in *AF* reviews whether CD^{32} software is compatible with the Zappo CD-ROM Drive, and possibly include a list of software for the CD^{32} that is already compatible.

R MacDonald, Warrington, Cheshire

Funnily enough, we have already instigated this very feature – *turn to page 65 to see it in full flow.*

After receiving my copy of *Imagine 3*, I was disappointed to find that the manual and Read Me files were so poorly written. Come on *AF* how about running more *Imagine* tutorials on how to use textures and understanding the manual.

Greg O'Connell, Liverpool

This is just one of the many letters I've received about Imagine. *And you'll be happy to hear that we'll be having a new series of tutorials starting soon!*

I'm thinking of buying the Canon Ion still camera. I intend to transfer images via a digitiser on to a 3.5-inch floppy disk producing a slide show effect with music or basic sound effects. Is it possible? If so could you please tell me how and what I need to achieve it.

The *PageSetter 2* Coverdisk (*AF63*) is brill! But it won't import anything from *Wordworth* – is there any way around this? It's the spell checker I really miss. Perhaps there's a PD word processor with spell checker that you could recommend?

Bill Andrews, Northern Ireland

You certainly can take grabs directly from the Canon Ion camera – buy any video digitiser that accepts a composite signal (99% of them do) and has an integral RGB splitter. We would recommend the ProGrab 24 *(reviewed AF65, 92%) from Harwoods (01773 836781). As for the slideshow, why not use the AF67* AMOS Professional *Coverdisk? It can load pictures and replay sound samples and music modules*

PageSetter 2 *won't import* Wordworth *documents because the file formats are different. But you can use* Wordworth *to prepare raw text for* PageSetter 2 *documents. Simply save the text within your* Wordworth *document out to disk as an ASCII file and import it into a text box.*

without the expense of the MPEG add-on. If you can live without FMV (and, let's face it, what are you going to do with it at the moment?) I think the A1200 and Zappo drive is the more elegant system.

A WORD FROM DOWN UNDER

Life here in Australia can be so hard at times. Amiga machines are not very popular down here – we brought ours over with us and it's difficult to get games – even PD games. We are months behind getting *AF*, and when we do all the competitions are out of date.

Could we have a special competition for Antipodeans who stay faithful to the Amiga in a country full of PC snobs?

I need a hard disk drive, if you're looking for ideas for a prize...

Mark Whitecross, Onkaparinga Hills, South Australia

The real problem is that if we did that the people who had entered in the UK would have to wait ages for the winners to be announced. Sorry, but we have to appeal to the majority.

And look on the bright side: at least you don't have to live in the UK where it rains every other day.

CONCISE, CLEAR AND PERTINENT

I'm an American and I'm also a prospective Amiga buyer who was impressed with the capabilities of his friends' wimpy A500.

1) How can you afford to give away such completely fabulous and expensive Coverdisks? Are they all company-sponsored promos, or factory leftovers? Some are great (*Imagine, G2, OctaMED, ClariSSA*), but unfortunately some back issues are sold out.

2) The A1200 is cheap, has up-to-date technology, and is very expandable – sounds like the A500, only five years on, so why doesn't every Amiga fan save up a bit and buy an A1200? It will catapult the average Workbench level to 3.0, boost the stability of the newly-owned Commodore, and improve the Amiga's reputation.

3) An A1200 with a 540Mb +50MHz Blizzard accelerator (with a 33MHz FPU and 4Mb RAM) and loads of free software costs less than an A4000/40 with a 250Mb hard drive (prices from *AF62*). So unless you're a movie producer with an extra $2,000, why buy an A4000/40?

4) Finally, I love *AF*, but it costs £111 to subscribe (or $200)! I could buy 2Mb RAM with that! I live in Hawaii, which is as far away from England as you can be and still be on dry land. Could you offer alternatives? Is *AF* cheaper in the US? Do you have a US relative you could recommend?

Brian Sturm, Kaneohe, Hawaii, USA

1) The exact mechanism of how we organise our wonderful Coverdisks must, I'm afraid, remain a secret. But rest assured they're not going to stop for the foreseeable future!

2) I'm sure everyone who can afford it has already upgraded!

3) The A1200 isn't as expandable as the A4000 – the A4000 has four Zorro slots instead of one, and the A4000T has seven! But, yes, they're a bit pricey.

4) Sadly, the only way to get a genuine Amiga Format *in the US is to subscribe. It's expensive, but it's worth it. And, like I said to Mark Whitecross of South Australia, I find it a little difficult feeling sorry for someone who lives in the blissfully tropical climate of Hawaii.*

ASKING THE IMPOSSIBLE

Is there anyone who can put me on to a piece of hardware or software that can read IBM and Mac programs and convert them to Amiga style so that I can use them in my A500? It seems that there is little coming out in the games area for the Amiga but quite a lot for IBM.

Also, is there any way of doing a similar thing with games written for the A1200?

If I get a CD drive, can my extensive library of over 600 games be transferred to CD? Can back-ups be made of CDs? I have back-ups of all but two of my games.

It is obvious that the Amiga is alive and well in the UK but we need a lifeline because there are few new games coming this way.

P Hillebrand, Sydney, Australia

Well, if there was a program that could make PC games run on an Amiga, the writer would make themselves a small fortune! Unfortunately, the code that sits on a Mac or PC disk is written with the processing capabilities of the Mac or PC in mind and simply will not run on an Amiga, even if you could read the disk (which you can with MS-DOS disks using CrossDOS*).*

You can already emulate Macintosh hardware with the Emplant hardware (Blittersoft – 01908 220196), and the PC version was launched at the World Of Amiga show in December.

Similarly A1200 games use the Amiga's 32-bit architecture, and no amount of fiddling will get the game to run on an A500.

Backing up your software to CD can't really be done without some very expensive CD-writing equipment. So unless you have a couple of thousand pounds and lots of technical knowledge, that's a 'no'. Your best bet would be to upgrade to an A1200 – this would solve all your problems in one go!



The amazing *AF53 Imagine* Coverdisk. Look out for more *AF* tutorials soon.

THE MAN AT THE TOP

Write to Commodore UK managing director David Pleasance c/o *Amiga Format*, 30 Monmouth St, Bath BA1 2BW.



AND NOW FOR THE GOOD NEWS

I would like to comment on the letter written to you by Anthony Gallagher in the November issue. Firstly, if the 'insignificant few' who support the Amiga are dwindling and turning to the PC why are several large companies fighting to buy Commodore? Even after months of bad news about Commodore and the Amiga's uncertain future, publishers are still developing games and utilities for what they know is a loyal band of users. These are people like me who bought the Amiga because it can do the same things as a PC but is much cheaper and doesn't require extra sound and graphics cards to run some games or applications. Although I am disappointed about the lack of an FMV CD drive for the A1200 I don't see myself as having been "shafted" by anybody at Commodore.

Graham Spratt, Beccles, Suffolk

Well, what a nice change to have such a positive letter to respond to, after what you aptly describe as months of bad news about Commodore. The computer and video games industry is going through a transitional period right now, for a number of good reasons. Firstly, it is certain that end users, just like you, want more. No longer are poorly animated stick-like characters with mindless object-collecting tasks to complete, satisfactory methods of stimulation. If you want a challenge, with the right level of realism, the 16-bit systems are capable of delivering this.

Secondly, MS-DOS PCs are, as a direct result of power-hungry software releases, increasing in price, reflecting the massive amount of RAM and higher powered chips necessary to provide an acceptable level of performance. The A1200 provides the best of both worlds, it is perfectly capable of running the best games and excels in productivity and multimedia applications. As far as FMV for A1200 is concerned, there have been some major developments in MPEG1 chip technology, and it is our intention, once our management buy out is completed, to re-evaluate the ability to provide this feature. I will keep you posted through these pages.

MORE CDS, PLEASE

I am writing to you about the lack of cover CDs on Amiga magazines. The only ones that I notice are for the CD^{32}. What about owners of A570s and CDTVs? I have a CDTV *Parnetted* to my A1200 with which I use the PD collections on CD.

There are probably quite a few people like me who would like to see a cover CD each month because without it these machines don't really have any support. You can't say not enough people own CD drives because you only have to pop into WH Smith and see that PC and Mac magazines all have cover CDs and I bet only a fraction of people who own these machines also have a CD-ROM drive.

Darren Noyce, Stowmarket, Suffolk

At the moment, the ratio of floppy drive owners to CD-ROM drive owners is only about 20:1, and so a cover CD would be useless for about 95% of our readers. The ratio amongst Mac and PC users is much, much higher: almost every new Mac and PC now comes with a built-in CD-ROM drive.

However, we are constantly looking at CD and I don't think it will be long before we recognise the CD format – perhaps we'll have to do a split run of AF *with a few thousand carrying CDs while the bulk carry floppies. Stay tuned!*

Gallery

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DMA Design are giving away a Tabby Graphics tablet worth £54.99 for the best Gallery picture. Plus, you could be commissioned to produce artwork for DMA, the team behind *Lemmings* and *Hired Guns*. Please indicate clearly if you don't want your details passed on to DMA. Send entries to: *Amiga Format*, Gallery, 30 Monmouth St, Bath, Avon BA1 2BW.

Jason Holborn tries to sound cultured as he strolls around the *Amiga Format* art gallery.

BATTERIES NOT INCLUDED

By Mark Jowett, Manchester

Drawn on an A1200 running *DPaint IV AGA*, this image is a fine example of the beautiful colour ranges possible with the AGA chip set's extended graphic capabilities. Note the shadow effect which is achieved using *DPaint*'s Tint function.



FERRETSHIP SCOUT

By Gary Arlett, A&B Photon Graphics

OK, so rendered images are 10-a-penny but what struck us about this one was its 3D effect. Rendered using *Lightwave 3.5* and *Vistapro 3.1*, Gary has used *Lightwave*'s fog feature for a real feeling of depth.



ARABIAN KNIGHTS

By Nathan Powell, Manchester

This picture proves that you don't need an AGA Amiga to create fantastic artwork. It was drawn in *DPaint IV* on an A500. Nathan wants to work in the computer industry as a graphic artist.



HELL BLAZER

By Anthony Carpendale, North Yorkshire

Anthony sent us a disk of 12 images but this rather disturbing one was undoubtedly the best. Drawn using 32 colours, the illusion of many more colours is achieved using a variety of dither patterns.



LA

By Darren Barwise, Doncaster

Drawn exclusively in Cloanto's *Personal Paint 4*, this effective image from Darren Barwise demonstrates perspective (and how difficult it can be to get right). Worth examining is the perspective of the building on the far right of the picture.



DEATH STAR ASSAULT

By Weibo De Wit, Holland

Since the release of NewTek's *Lightwave 3.5*, the quality of rendered images sent to the *AF* Gallery has increased enormously. This image was rendered on an A4000/030 and took almost six hours to render with full anti-aliasing turned on.



SEE THE FUTURE

By Edward Moyse, London

This moody 16-colour image was drawn completely by hand using just a thick brush and *DPaint*'s powerful Blend tool (Edward's favourite drawing function). He is particularly chuffed with the highlights on the crystal ball.

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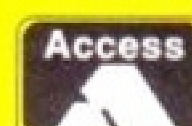
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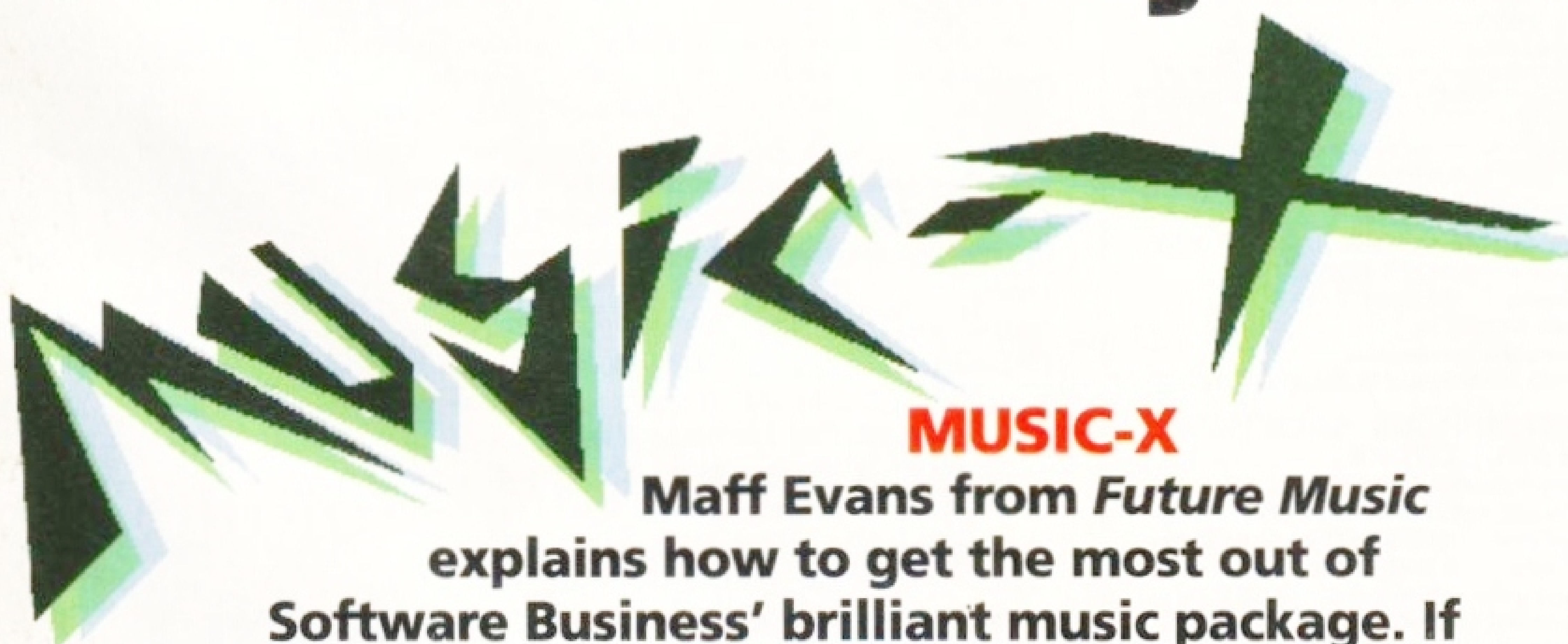
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